Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 118 | MONDAY MAY 18, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

$1.7M in PSS operational budget remains unused. PAGE 3

CEC says GOP to take care of primary election. PAGE 7

'Delay federalization to 2010'

- Fitial to ask Subcommittee to support legislative action
- Guest workers asking for improved immigration status oppose further delay

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Fitial

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will ask the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife to support extending the effective date of the federalization law by as much as one year or up to November 2010. He wants the delay until the CNMI gets a visa waiver for Russian and Chinese tourists and all needed facilities and personnel are in place, among other things.

The start of transition to federal immigration law is now set for Nov. 28, 2009, after Homeland Security Janet Napolitano approved a 180-day delay from June 1, 2009, as allowed by law.

Fitial left yesterday to testify at a hearing in Washington, D.C. at 10am on Tuesday (Wednesday on Saipan) before the Subcommittee chaired by Guam Dele-

See DELAY on Page 4

FLAMING BACKDROP HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rows of flame trees in full bloom add majestic beauty to Saipan's main roads, like this one in Susupe yesterday afternoon. The CNMI's national tree, the flame tree is descriptive of its name because it looks like fire from a distance.

Guest workers begin three-day assembly today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Six guest worker groups will start a three-day peaceful assembly in front of the TSL Plaza in Garapan today to voice their concerns on the issue of long-term immigration status.

The groups are inviting all guest workers in the CNMI to join them during the 72-hour rally starting at 7am.

See GUEST on Page 4

OAG updates 'excluded' countries list

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Baka

Acting Attorney General Gregory Baka has updated the list of "excluded locations" whose residents are subject to additional entry requirements in the CNMI, and has outlined the factors that will be considered when exercising his

See OAG on Page 4

Sablan: Failure to use $12M highway funds may pose problem

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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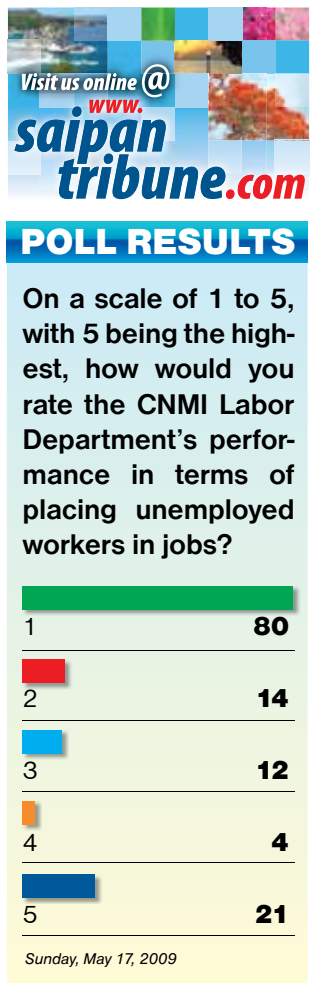
REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio C. "Kilili" Sablan said the CNMI's failure to use $12 million in surface transportation reauthorization appropriated in 2005 does not bode well for future funding requests.

Sablan was responding to a letter from Sen. Paul A. Manglona, who asked for an update on Public Law 109-59 or the

See SABLAN on Page 4



POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI Labor Department's performance in terms of placing unemployed workers in jobs?

1	80
2	14
3	12
4	4
5	21

Sunday, May 17, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 15, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

Local

'Saipan could be an industrial depot for Asian markets'

For the CNMI to recover from the effects of the global crisis, an economic expert is advising the creation of an industrial zone near the Saipan International Airport and the seaport.

Joseph P. Bradley, senior vice president and economic market statistics officer for Bank of Guam, says this plan is still viable for the CNMI.

He said the big empty spaces near the airport and seaport is ideal for an industrial complex or zone.

Bradley said products being shipped from the U.S. to Asia could be stored in the industrial zone instead of spending three weeks in transshipment.

"It [shipment] will take a matter of few days and I think that instant gratification is worth it for the buyers," he said.

Also, Bradley said the empty lots and buildings that used to be occupied by garment factories could be converted into small scale manufacturing or processing centers.

"You've got an enormous telecommunications capacity or fiber optic, and I think that the CNMI could engage in telemarketing with the U.S., Canada and Asia," Bradley added.

Bradley made the presentation on the topic "Islands in the Storm: The urgency to Recruit and Train for the Military Build-up" before participants of the Second Annual Mayors' Conference last Friday at the Fiesta Resort and Spa.

He said small islands like Guam and the CNMI in some ways will actually benefit from the global recession such us the reduction in fuel or energy prices. Bradley says that this would mitigate the cost of shipping into the CNMI.

"This has already affected airfares. This should ease some of the downward pressures on tourism," he said.

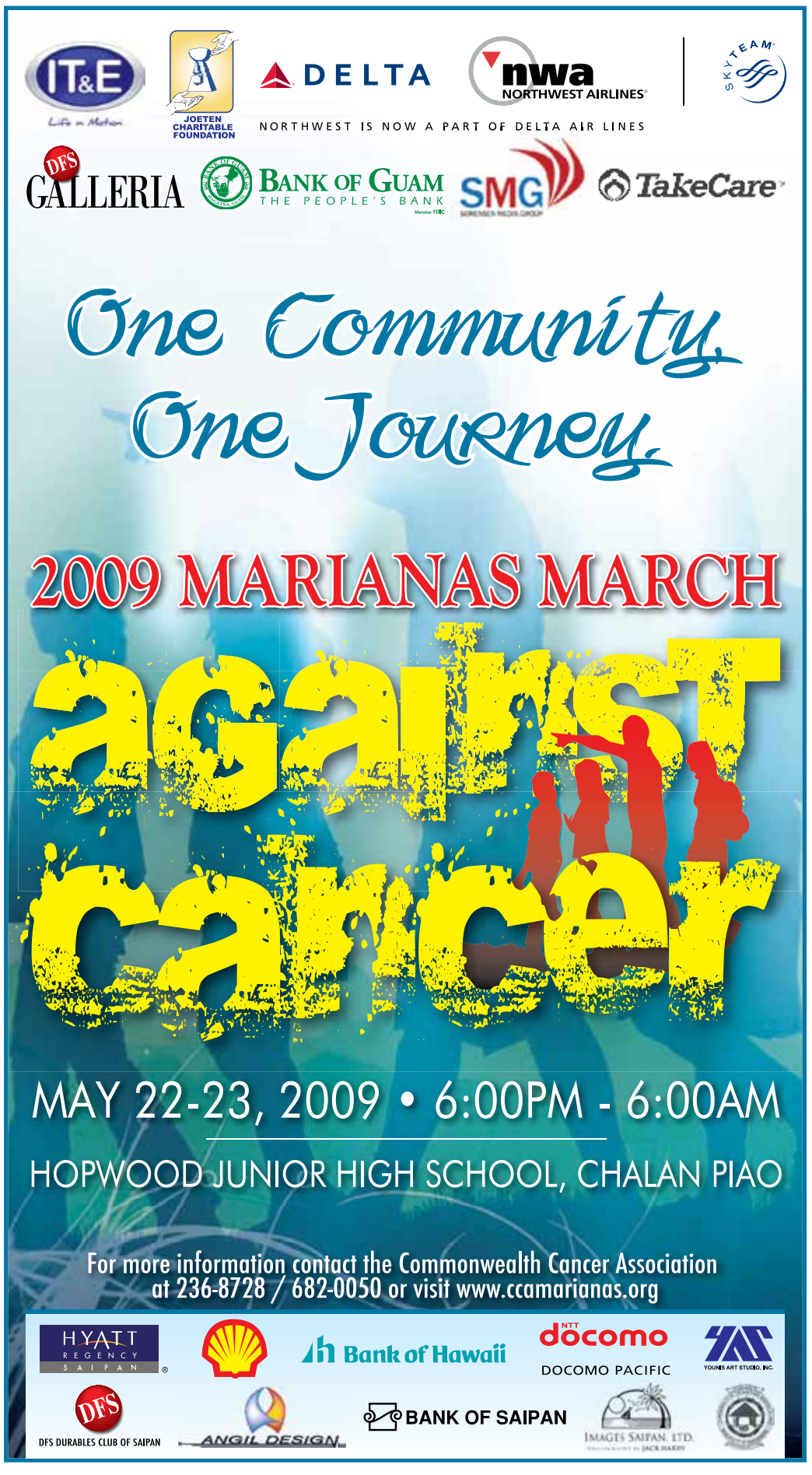
Still the business industry would be very tight not only for the CNMI but for the rest of the global economy as long as recession is ongoing because people want to stay home and keep their money there, he said.

Bradley believes federalization would help reduce some of the pressures due to the smaller number of immigrant workers.

He said fewer jobs and the reduced number of immigrant workers will stabilize the economy.

"Albeit a much lower level of activity in the CNMI compared to the last 20 years. It does not mean that the CNMI is going to return to its affluent situation when the garment factory are still alive but I think it will force a reduction in the size of the government," he said.

"The CNMI economy would be very different in 10 years," he added. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***



Palms' intern is hotdog-eating champ

Joshua Cho raises his left hand as he finishes off three hotdog sandwiches in over five minutes to beat 14 other contestants in last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

An intern at Palms Resort Saipan won last Saturday's hotdog-eating competition at the 11th Annual Taste of the Marianas at the American Memorial Park.

Joshua Cho, a 23-year-old intern from South Korea, finished off three hotdog sandwiches in just over five minutes to beat 14 other contestants.

"I'm still hungry," joked Cho moments after winning the contest that drew a huge cheering crowd.

He said it was his first time to join a contest like this.

He won the top prize of $50.

Kai Shiano pocketed $30 for placing second. The 12-year-old student of Chacha Ocean View said he did not eat before joining the contest.

"I was so hungry," said Shiano, who gobbled up his three hotdog sandwiches just a few seconds behind the champion.

Tommy Baek, a senior at Marianas High School, placed third after going through a tie-break against a female competitor. He went home with $20.

All contestants finished off three hotdog sandwiches with catsup and mustard sauce under a limited time of 15 minutes.

The hotdogs and bread used during were donated by Herman's Bakery.

Next Saturday's side event of the Taste of the Marianas will be the bartending and juggling competition.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

$1.7M in PSS operational budget remains unused

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

With four months to the end of Fiscal Year 2009, the Public School System disclosed that approximately $1.7 million has yet been expended by some schools for their operations.

Financial officers of the system bared during Thursday's special meeting of the Board of Education that most of the 20 public schools throughout the three islands have yet to touch their operational budget provided under local appropriation.

PSS was budgeted a total of $34.2 million for FY 2009, of which $28 million was allocated for personnel; $3 million for utilities; and $3 million for all others and school operations.

This translates to only about $1.3 million expended by the system in its operational budget since the beginning of fiscal year in October 2008.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh reported during the special meeting that schools that have yet to get their share of the operations budget were given three months to use it.

The operational budget is used to buy students' toiletries and supplies, fuel for vans, drinking water, and other immediate needs. It is provided to individual schools based on student population.

The "unused" operational budget is being eyed for reprogramming to other schools that badly need the funds. It was also proposed that a portion could be used in rewarding performing public schools.

Among the schools that have a significant amount of unused operations funds include Marianas High School, which still has $106,000; Hopwood Junior High, $101,000; and San Vicente Elementary, $94,000.

The rest of the "unused" funds are spread out among other schools.

PSS anticipates a shortfall of $388,000 through September in its personnel account after local appropriation provided only $28 million to pay for the salaries of nearly a thousand employees. The system also projects to incur a deficit of $11 million for the Retirement Fund by the end of FY 2009.

During the board's deliberation, chairwoman Lucy Blanco Maratita expressed surprised upon learning of the "unused" funds.

"Why it is still sitting there?" she asked the board and PSS officials.

Vice chair Herman T. Guerrero said this may indicate that some schools don't need the money.

"Do they really need the money? If not…we can use it for other schools that badly need help or maybe we can use some portion of it to reward our performing schools," he said.

School administrators interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* said they are reserving their operational funds for the opening of the new school year in August.

Most of them said the amount will be used to buy additional desks, tables, and other materials for the opening of classes.

Others said they are waiting for additional funding from other sources to be able to use the operational budget for purposes such as renovations and repairs.

Regents absent from Tinian ABE graduation ceremony

May marks the graduation ceremonies of the students of the Northern Marianas College. Since the suspension of academic programs on Rota & Tinian, only ABE courses have been offered at those campuses.

Sources have confirmed that no Board of Regent member was present at the recent ABE graduation ceremony on Tinian held last May 13. The Regent appointed from Tinian, Janet King, did not attend.

Asked to confirm whether King or other regents were invited, King confirmed that she personally did not receive an invitation nor was she part of the ceremony.

King declined to comment whether this was an act of retaliation because of her recent voting down of the college president's contract renewal. On May 8, 2009, the Board of Regents met to evaluate the renewal of the president's contract. King was the lone "no" vote for the renewal of Dr. Carmen Fernandez's contract for four more years.

King issued an official statement urging not to have the issue "blown out of proportion." She attributed the incident to "miscommunication."

King stated, "We will use this experience as a lesson to strengthen communication protocol between myself and college staff."

"The president and I can and will work together," she said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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NMC hosts free mini-info session today

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free mini-information session today, May 18, 2009, at Room D-1 at the College's As Terlaje campus, from 5:30pm to 7pm.

Faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid, and admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions. Other current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC.

Individuals who attend the free mini-information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the summer and fall 2009 semesters. This represents a savings of about $75 for either semester.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. ***(NMC)***

SABLAN

From Page 1

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and the successive legislation that will govern U.S. federal transportation spending.

P.L. 109-59 will expire on Sept. 30, 2009, and Congress is currently working on a replacement bill for the following six-year period.

In 2005, the CNMI was successful in obtaining $12 million under the SAFETEA-LU to improve and maintain transportation infrastructure on the islands. This was in addition to the annual federal highway funding of some $4 million that the CNMI receives.

The 2005 funding was used to initiate the Talafofo highway project that will link neighboring communities on Saipan and enhance the island's tourism appeal.

Manglona said there are still many transportation infrastructure projects in the CNMI that have been stalled and/or in need of funding, particularly on Rota.

Sablan said he is submitting funding proposals based on road projects the CNMI has already prepared, and will work hard to secure monies for Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

"If these projects are funded under the surface transportation legislation, annual Federal Highway Administration grants that would have been used will be freed up," Sablan told Manglona.

Sablan added that the monies could then be directed to a study to determine the feasibility of establishing, maintaining and operating an inter-island ferry service.

"And, if that study indicates it would be feasible and affordable, then annual Federal Highway grants could also be used to establish a ferry. Of course, all of this would be at the discretion of the Commonwealth government," he said.

Manglona had asked for the possibility of tapping federal funds for a regular ferry service between the CNMI and Guam.

Sablan, in a May 8 letter to Manglona, said before taking his seat in the U.S. Congress in December and again in February, he urged Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to take action to study the feasibility of such service but he has yet to learn of any update on this.

He added that once an office of transportation is created, it could answer many questions about the proposed ferry service, including the number of passengers expected to use it, the revenues to be generated, whether it is limited to passenger or would also include automobiles and freight, the types of vessels needed, or whether the service would pay for itself or be subsidized by the CNMI government.

DELAY

From Page 1

gate Madeleine Bordallo regarding the implementation of Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law.

The governor is accompanied by his special counsel, Howard Willens, according to press secretary Charles Reyes Jr.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos is acting governor for the first time since he was sworn into office as the CNMI's first non-elected lieutenant governor.

Fitial, in a statement, said he plans to emphasize concerns with the implementation of the federalization law and its effects on businesses, potential new investors, foreign workers, and local residents.

He said he is going to detail concerns with the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program regulations and the readiness of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to implement the law on Nov. 28 this year.

"I will ask the Subcommittee to support a legislative extension of the effective date of the law—perhaps for as much as one year," he said.

'No more delay'

But groups of guest workers who are holding a 72-hour peaceful assembly starting this morning are opposed to a further delay in the start of transition to federal immigration. ***(See sidebar)***

The groups want U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to recommend to the U.S. Congress to permit guest workers lawfully residing in the CNMI to apply for long-term immigration status as stated in the provisions of the federalization law.

"We are against additional delay. We think that the 180 days of delay is enough time for DHS [Department of Homeland Security] to issue regulations and prepare for federalization," United Workers Movement NMI president Raby Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Syed said one of the reasons why the economy is in shambles is uncertainty over federalization. He added that the CNMI Department of Labor has been issuing regulations and policies that are unfair to guest workers.

"Investors don't invest until federalization is in place. There will be jobs here for local residents. And the CNMI Department of Labor is issuing new regulations that give more workers a hard time. For example, they are now charging $50 for extension request. Workers don't have jobs and now they need to pay more," Syed said.

He reiterated the worker groups' call for "improved immigration status for all."

Visa waiver, resources

Fitial cited two major reasons for asking for a further delay in federalization: to allow the CNMI to continue accepting Chinese and Russian tourists and to ensure DHS has the facilities and personnel in place before the law is implemented.

"First, an extension is required so that the Subcommittee can find ways to direct the Department of Homeland Security to revise its visa waiver regulations so that the Commonwealth can continue its efforts to develop the China and Russia tourist markets. The need for revision of these regulations is clear," said Fitial.

He said DHS has failed to implement the law in a manner consistent with the legislative intent, and has substantially underestimated the damage to the CNMI economy if the islands' access to those markets is terminated.

The Fitial administration said in FY 2008, arrivals from China and Russia accounted for approximately 10 percent of the total visitor arrivals and contributed about $56 million in direct economic impact and $185 million in indirect economic impact annually.

"Considering the significant economic impact involved, any interrupted access by visitors from PRC and Russia to the Commonwealth would have a devastating and long-standing effect on our economy and people," Fitial told Pacific mayors last week.

The governor, in his statement over the weekend, also said the economic analysis DHS relied on is seriously flawed.

"Second, an extension is required so that the Subcommittee can be confident that the Department will have the facilities and personnel in place by Nov. 28, 2009," Fitial said.

In his two-page statement, the governor said DHS advised Congress in January that it needed about $97 million to implement the law in the CNMI.

This is 10 times larger than what DHS told Congress in 2007 when the legislation was under consideration.

"We do not know whether the new administration agrees with this estimate. We are asking the Subcommittee to find out," Fitial said.

The CNMI's immigration laws will be completely preempted as of Nov. 28.

Fitial said if the federal government is not fully prepared by this date, it presents a "serious national security risk for the people of the Commonwealth and the United States."

The governor said the Subcommittee and the people of the Commonwealth are entitled to know exactly how much Fiscal Year 2009 funding has been spent to prepare for the implementation of federalization, how much more will be expended in the remaining months of FY 2009, and whether DHS is depending in part on funding being sought for FY 2010, "buried somewhere in the Department's request for $55.1 billion."

"Let me be clear. If the federal government cannot put in place facilities and personnel that can track each person entering and leaving the Commonwealth—which the CNMI is currently equipped to do and the federal authorities have never been able to do—the effective date of the law should be extended until they have this capability," Fitial said.

The governor also said he is confident that, with the support of the other witnesses at the hearing, and with the support of Delegate Greg "Kilili" C. Sablan, the CNMI will be able to secure the extension of the effective date of federalization.

Sablan's office could not be immediately reached for comment.

OAG

From Page 1

discretion to grant or deny a request for waiver of the exclusion.

Baka, in an April 22, 2009 public notice, designated 31 areas as "excluded locations," including 30 countries and one Chinese province.

Pursuant to Immigration Regulation Section 80(B), the following locations are excluded locations: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, the Fujian province of China, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon and Libya.

Also on the list are Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Venezuela, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

"Under Immigration Regulation 804(C), waivers are issued on a case-by-case basis. However, when a location appears on the list of excluded locations, the presumption is in favor of excluding all persons seeking to enter the CNMI from those locations," said Baka.

In the two-page public notice, Baka outlined some of the factors that will be considered when exercising the attorney general's discretion in deciding whether to grant or deny a request for a waiver of the exclusion.

These factors are divided into three categories: for visitors entering the CNMI pursuant to a visitor's entry permit, persons applying for entry as alien workers, and special conditions under Immigration Regulations 804(C)(2).

These include humanitarian reasons such as attendance at a funeral or brief visits between a parent and child.

Another consideration is for visitors in transit to embark on commercial fishing or other vessels from a seaport in the CNMI, or crew members of a commercial air or sea vessel may be allowed entry pursuant to a prior agreement between the OAG's Division of Immigration and an approved agent for the employer.

Baka said the applicant must show that the presence of the worker from one of the excluded locations will substantially benefit the CNMI.

This benefit must be specific and related to significantly improving the quality of life of economy in the CNMI.

"The ordinary contributions of an alien worker made during the course of employment do not constitute adequate grounds of waiver," said Baka.

He said the fact that a person has been granted a waiver for one immigration classification, for example, as a tourist, does not guarantee that a waiver will be granted for another purpose like immediate relative, student or contract worker.

"Generally, any request for a change of status or immigration classification of a person entering the Commonwealth from an excluded location will be denied, and may subject the sponsor of the alien to an assessment against the bond posted…," said Baka.

The acting attorney general said special conditions to be required may include notification that the Division of Immigration may not allow that visitor to change status or immigration classification while in the CNMI such as from short- or long-term tourist to immediate relative, foreign investor or student.

"Under no circumstances will a person entering on a tourist status be allowed to transfer to a nonresident worker classification unless the person departs the Commonwealth and separately applies for the new position, which application will be reviewed de novo," said Baka.

Special conditions may also prohibit the issuance of a tourist extension and may require adherence to the itinerary submitted with the VEP application.

Other conditions may be imposed when deemed appropriate under the circumstances, Baka added.

Baka said the list of factors is a "non-exhaustive list," and there may be other relevant factors considered in making the decision.

He said an applicant may satisfy one or more of the factors but still be denied for other reasons, and that the list does not create any rights nor should it create an expectation that a waiver will be granted if factors on the list are satisfied by an applicant.

The applicant must also comply with all other requirements of the Immigration Regulations in the application process, including the mandatory bonding and sponsor requirements, Baka added.

GUEST

From Page 1

In a statement, the groups said the assembly's purpose is to ask the Interior Secretary to recommend to the U.S. Congress to permit admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the CNMI to apply for long-term status, as stated in the provisions of Public Law 110-229.

The statement was signed by Boni Sagana of Dekada Movement, Rabby Syed of the United Workers Movement, Ernest Maicle of MOVER, Ronnie Doca of Pilipino Contract Workers Association Inc., and workers group leaders Rene Reyes and Teddy Luna.

The workers will be holding the peaceful assembly until Wednesday.

Since the assembly falls on workdays, the workers' groups are suggesting that people come and stay for a few hours before or after work hours.

"You can also come and spend your lunch or dinner breaks there," said the groups.

The groups also urged people to bring water, snacks, food, folding chairs, umbrellas, candles, or flashlight.

"No one is certain what the outcome of this assembly would be, but remember that no one is also certain of what the guest workers' fate will be once the federalization of CNMI immigration gets implemented in November,' they said.

The law says in part "that the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Governor of the CNMI, shall report to Congress no later than two years after the enactment of the 2008 Consolidated Natural Resources Act" to recommend to Congress "related to whether or not it should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth…to apply for long term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States."

The groups said it would be better to take a stand now, rather than wait.

"We did it before and we can do it again. Let us show our strength in unity," the groups said.

The group said there is no guarantee that their request would be granted but they firmly believe that if they stand united "our voice would be loud enough."

House hikes NMI funding in Green Schools Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, providing up to $6.4 billion for schools to modernize and increase energy efficiency, passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday.

Funding for the U.S. insular areas and schools run by the Bureau of Indian Affairs was doubled when the bill reached the floor of the House. NMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan is one of the 16 original co-sponsors of the bill, drafted by Ben Chandler (D-KY).

"This bill is another important investment in our children, our environment, and our economy," said Sablan. "The Northern Marianas could realize as much as $6.3 million once this bill is enacted and funded. That money will improve the conditions inside schools for students and teachers, will cut down on the use of electricity, and give jobs to workers and construction companies who help with the modernizations."

Sablan

Sablan voted for passage of the legislation when the Education and Labor Committee approved the bill on May 6.

In voting on the floor of the House, Sablan also supported an amendment to the bill to reserve an additional five percent of the $6.4 billion for grants to educational agencies serving areas in significant economic distress or recovering from natural disaster. Bobby Bright (D-AL) offered the amendment.

A primary goal of the bill is to modernize classroom environments to prepare students for careers in the 21st century. The Northern Marianas Public School System could use the money to update science labs, libraries and technical education facilities. PSS could also use the money to improve school energy efficiency by repairing or replacing roofs, windows, or wiring, improving cooling systems, and for emergency preparation, compliance with laws regarding access for individuals with disabilities, removal of mold and mildew, and similar projects.

"The money provided by the 21st Century Schools Act would be in addition to the school modernization money we have already made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act," said Sablan. "It reflects the belief of this Congress that investment in our educational system is essential to future economic health."

A number of government and private studies cite a strong link between modern, functional school facilities and student achievement.

Schools are not the only beneficiaries this bill, however; lawmakers hope that it will help support industries that install green products like windows, roofs, heating and cooling systems, and energy equipment like solar panels. Programs that teach vocational skills in construction, like Youthbuild, are also encouraged to be engaged. Participation in these programs will allow students to learn traditional construction skills and new skills, like solar panel installation or energy-efficient construction, which will help them get jobs in the future.

The next steps for the bill are approval by the Senate and President Obama. ***(PR)***

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Rota park named after a soldier killed in Iraq

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill renaming the Rota Veteran Memorial Park the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veteran Memorial Park, in honor of the fallen soldier.

House Bill 16-52, introduced by Sen. Paterno S. Hocog, is now Public Law 16-40. Fitial signed the law on May 12.

Charfauros, 33, was one of four U.S. soldiers killed on June 20, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq following injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device that blew up near their vehicle. The soldiers were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Steward, Georgia.

Rota Legislative Delegation Commemorative Resolution 15-3 said the bill's intent is to recognize and commend Charfauros's courage and valor so that he shall be forever remembered by the grateful people of Rota and the CNMI.

Charfauros was a police officer on Rota. He went back to Rota in December 2006 for his wedding to wife Stellita. They had three children—Mikeangela, Junelle and Joe II.

The new law directs the Division of Parks and Recreation to commission and provide for signage reflecting the park name change. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

NMI hospitality shines during Golden Week

In a warm show of island *hafa adai* and *tirow* (greetings) spirit, the Northern Mariana Islands extended a special welcome to all visitors during Japan's recent Golden Week holiday.

As one of the peak vacation periods for travelers from Japan, Golden Week was highly anticipated on the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Marianas Visitors Authority and island entertainers welcomed passengers with shell leis on all regular and charter flights from April 25-May 6, 2009.

MVA also welcomed the Nempo Shinkyo Memorial Group on May 9 for their annual visit to the islands. The 200-member group, lead by Priest Reiho Inayama, conducted their annual ceremony at Banzai Cliff on May 10 in memory of World War II war dead and in support of world peace.

"Golden Week is a perfect opportunity for us to share goodwill with our Japanese visitors by giving them a special welcome," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's a small gesture, but when you see the smiles on their faces, it reminds us that even the smallest gesture can make a difference." ***(MVA)***

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CEC says GOP to take care of primary election

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission disclosed Friday that, except for providing a record of registered voters, it will play no role in the upcoming primary poll of the local Republican Party.

Commission chair Frances M. Sablan said all preparations will be performed and completed by the party itself.

On June 27, the ticket of former governor Juan N. Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero will face the team of Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios in a primary poll that will determine the official party standard bearer in the gubernatorial race in November.

"The commission could only provide them the available record and information of registered voters…but the party would do all the necessary preparations," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said the commission is not in charge of the primary election.

She conceded the commission's lack of manpower would also hinder its desire to assist the GOP.

Beginning this month, CEC will place a logistics unit at the Price Costco to encourage community members to register. A commission employee will man the Price Costco booth every Saturday through the registration deadline on Sept. 18.

Saipan Tribune learned that the outreach unit usually gathers 15 percent of total voters during a general election.

Sablan also disclosed that it will be the GOP that will designate the polling places for the primary.

"The polling places may also be designated by the party itself," Sablan said.

CEC, she added, will try to "stay away" from the primary election.

The commission recorded 13,454 registered voters as of May 1. Some 15,000 or more are expected to vote in the gubernatorial race.

The commission chairwoman admitted that only a small portion of total registered voters usually participate in primary elections.

"What the party usually does is they identify local members and encourage them to participate and vote in the primary," Sablan said.

Whoever emerges victorious in the June 27 GOP primary would face the tandems of Benigno R. Fitial-Eloy Inos, Covenant Party; Juan T. Guerrero-Joseph Camacho, Independent; and Ramon Guerrero-David Borja, Independent.

Guam mayors mixed on federalization, military buildup

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Guam mayors here for the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference have expressed contrasting views about the upcoming military buildup at home as well as the federalization of the CNMI's immigration system.

Mayor Jose "Pedo" T. Terlaje of Yona said he is definitely against federalization because it is already impacting Guam.

He said he's attending the conference not only to talk about agriculture with Philippine mayors but also to share his views on the impacts of federalization. "I'm happy that we're sharing these issues with the other mayors in the region because we are all impacted," he said.

Terlaje wants the United States to keep its hands off CNMI immigration because he does not want the people of the CNMI to experience what Guam went through.

"It weakened the social life in Guam and it will have the same impact for the people in the CNMI if that happens," he said.

He said local people, even the local governments, have no control in Guam because the U.S. government runs the entire place.

"Implementing it [federalization of CNMI Immigration] will diminish the life of the people in the CNMI," Terlaje said.

He said this is because the local workforce will not be enough to supply the needed manpower.

On the issue of the U.S. military buildup, Terlaje said the people of Guam can already visualize the problems and the issues that will confront the people of the region once that happens.

But the oldest Guam mayor, Vicente "Ben" D. Gumataotao of Piti, said the general feeling of the people in Guam is that "we are fully supporting the military buildup."

He said there are some activists who are against it but they are a small fraction of the population.

Gumatatao, 82, is a retired U.S. Navy officer, who said he trained many people who are now working in Washington D.C. He is a first cousin of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and an uncle of CNMI Delegate to Congress Gregorio Sablan.

On the issue of the visa waiver program, Gumataotao said he understands the U.S. decision to exclude China and Russia.

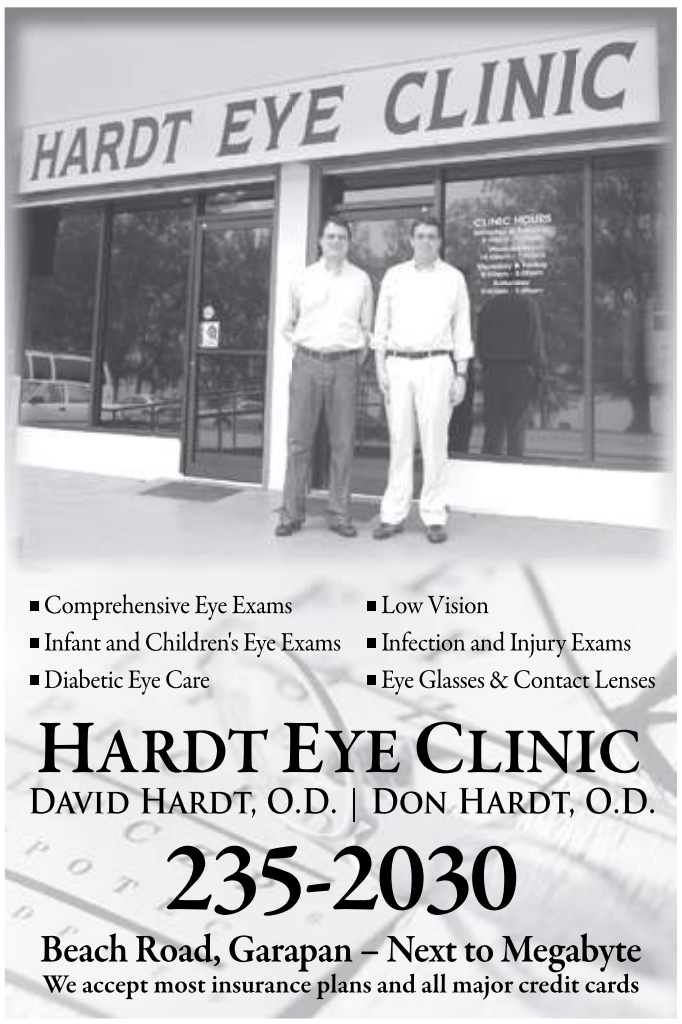
Gumatatao described as "suicidal" Fitial's efforts to stop the U.S. government from federalizing CNMI immigration "but it is his right to do so because he takes care of the welfare of the people of the CNMI."

Mayor Paul McDonald of Agatna Heights, who is also president of the Association of Pacific Islands Local Governments, said most resource speakers of the conference presented bleak prospects.

"It is alarming. But so far the conference is going smooth," he said.

Vice Mayor Louise C. Rivera of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon said this kind of gathering is a wonderful opportunity for dialogue.

"We are given the chance to share our visions and how we can best address our concerns on these issues," she said.



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MHS teacher named among 10 Pacific TOYs

A Marianas High School teacher, James E. Phillips, has been chosen as one of the Pacific Teachers of the Year and will be honored at the 26th annual Pacific Educational Conference, at the University of Guam in July.

Phillips, a teacher for five years who currently teaches marine science, honors astronomy, and AP physics in grades 9–12 at MHS, was accorded the honor by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

This program provides an opportunity for outstanding teachers from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, and Palau to attend the three-day conference.

The 26th annual Pacific Educational Conference will take place July 15–17, 2009, at the University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam, and is one of the largest gatherings of educators in the Pacific region.

Besides Phillips, the other 2009 Pacific Teachers of the Year are:

■ Anson Abraham, Sapwalap Elementary School, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

■ Salvador J. Avilla, George Washington High School, Guam.

■ Loretta J. Case, Dalap Elementary School, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

■ Bebi Davis, W. R. Farrington High School, Hawai'i.

■ Murali Gopalan, Leone High School, American Samoa.

■ Pomeroy Kephas, Malem Elementary School, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia.

■ Broyline Ligow, Dalipebinaw Community School, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia.

■ Istaro Mwarike, Moch Elementary School, Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia.

■ Epsie S. West, Koror Elementary School, Republic of Palau.

The TOYs will be honored at a reception with their chief state school officers, traditional chiefs, government officials, and other dignitaries.

Themed *Preparing the Pacific Child for Life*, this year's conference is cohosted by the Guam Public School System, the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and PREL.

The Pacific Teachers of the Year recognition program is a conference tradition that began in 1996. It is sponsored by Pacific corporate partners Continental Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, and PREL. ***(PREL)***

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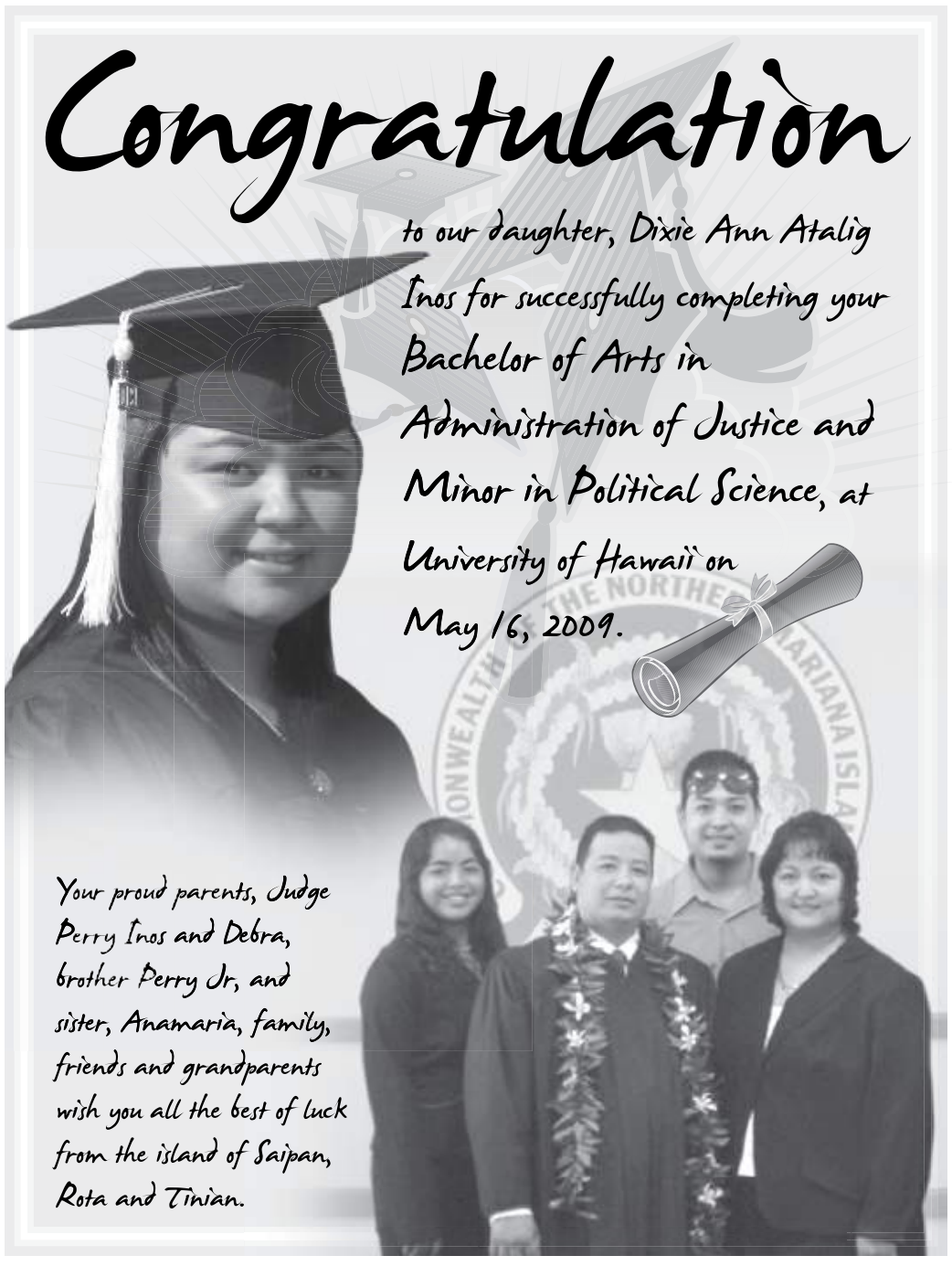
***Bruce L. Mailman** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***Maya B. Kara** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*


Congratulation
to our daughter, Dixie Ann Atalig Inos for successfully completing your Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice and Minor in Political Science, at University of Hawaii on May 16, 2009.
Your proud parents, Judge Perry Inos and Debra, brother Perry Jr, and sister, Anamaria, family, friends and grandparents wish you all the best of luck from the island of Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 18, 1999

Teno on Murkowski bill: 'Not that bad'

Gov. Pedro P.Tenorio yesterday said US Sen. Frank Murkowski's federal takeover proposal is "more friendly" compared to other bills pending in Congress, but maintained that any legislation that would take away local control over immigration and labor is unacceptable to the CNMI. While Murkowski's version draws praise from the governor for excluding minimum wage, Tenorio said, "The chairman knows that what we are asking from the federal government and the US Congress is that we maintain our labor and immigration laws." The bipartisan measure put forward last week by Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) seeks full extension of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the Northern Marianas, but eased provisions that may rock the troubled island economy largely dependent on tourism and garment manufacturing.

Economic woes force companies to refuse JTPA trainees

As many businesses on the island continue to lay off employees due to the slowdown on the island's tourism economy, the number of companies participating in the government's on-the-job-training program for graduating students has likewise been decreasing for the past three years. This year, only six of the 75 companies contacted by the Job Training & Partnership Act office have expressed interest in accepting students for the training program. According to Felix Nogis, director of JTPA, his office sent 42 letters for the 1999 summer training but only 15 responded positively in assisting the government.

MAY 18, 2000

Atalig seeks Kumoi's ouster

Two Senate committees may kick out Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero as member in what appears to be yet another consequence of his decision to seek an audit of expenditures by his colleagues. But the senator shrugged off the planned ouster as he warned members of the Senate that he will continue to be a "watchdog" in order for the public to find out how they are spending their tax dollars. Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, chair of the committees on Health, Education and Welfare as well as Judiciary, Government and Law, yesterday informed the upper house that he is "considering removing [Mr. Guerrero] effective immediately."

U.S. Navy orders sub to leave Saipan dock

Citing security concerns, ranking U.S. Navy officials from Washington ordered military submarine personnel to stay away from near the shore shortly after it arrived and docked at the Saipan International Harbor yesterday morning. The undersea vessel and its crew were welcomed by local government officials headed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Its presence near the shore where the public can apparently have easy access to at least come near the submarine may pose security concerns since USS Columbus is considered a highly classified U.S. military vessel. A 362-foot, 6,927-ton undersea vessel, USS Columbus is well equipped to carry out missions that include deployment of special forces, minelaying, precision land attack or anti-submarine or surface warfare while remaining undetected.

MAY 18, 2001

Teno orders review of projected revenues

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday instructed the government's finance managers to review projected revenues amid the slow rally of the local economy and aggravated business confidence in the CNMI. Mr. Tenorio said he called for an immediate review of the government's projected income to determine whether anticipated collections are still in line with the administration's proposed budget for financial year 2001. The governor is particularly concerned about reports on the increasing number of business closures in recent months which, he said, may affect projected government earnings for the next fiscal year.

Takeover plans collapse

The Commonwealth government will map out mechanisms to ensure that no other federal takeover threats would be made in the future after the US Congress refused to act on a federalization proposal yesterday. This as Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio planned to collaboratively work with US legislators. He said the CNMI will continuously seek the assistance of the US Congress to thwart future attempts to federalize local immigration and labor systems. He stressed that the administration will not let down its guards and defenses as continuous monitoring of activities in the United States will be carried out.

Labor bars employer who engaged in extensive fraud

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has barred an employer from employing alien workers in the CNMI for a two-year period for engaging in extensive fraud in operating his businesses.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody referred its order against Soleman (his name and last name) to the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"The evidence establishes a systematic pattern of fiscal mismanagement, neglect of business by this owner, and extensive fraud with respect to the issuance of sales receipts. Such business practices render any income and expense figures completely unreliable," Cody said.

As of the date of the Labor hearing on June 3, 2008, Soleman operated a barracks rental, land clearing, charcoal manufacture and sale, and commercial cleaning.

The charcoal business was known as "Dajets Island Charcoal & Lime."

Cody, however, allowed 10 employees of Soleman to seek new employers. Aalthough it is likely that some of these workers' jobs were mere sponsorships, he said the fact remains that other workers, in fact, produced charcoal for Soleman.

Cody said Labor did not examine individual workers to establish which of them have engaged in sponsorship versus legitimate charcoal manufacture.

"Therefore, the Hearing Officer finds that all workers should be granted transfer relief at this time," he added.

According to Labor records, Soleman began employing or attempting to hire an increasing number of workers as "charcoal makers" for his charcoal business.

Soleman claimed that his charcoal business-making business was profitable and that he needed all of these workers to maintain and increase the capacity of his land clearing and charcoal businesses.

In April 2008, the Labor director denied a number of transfer applications submitted by Soleman due to failure to comply with a deficiency notice; income not justifying an additional hiring; salary records showed that not all workers are being paid; and suspected sponsorship.

Soleman and the 11 workers appealed.

Cody said that at the hearing, Soleman produced a number of sales receipt books regarding his charcoal sales.

Cody said the Labor director's examination showed that numerous entries in the books had been altered to make it appear that a greater number of bags of charcoal had been delivered and a greater amount of cash had been collected.

To document the fraud, the director obtained affidavits signed by the customers themselves attesting to the actual numbers of charcoal bags they had purchased and the prices they paid.

With respect to tax records, Cody said Soleman admitted under oath that he intentionally falsified the amount of revenue he claimed to have received in an attempt to reduce his tax payments.

17-year alien worker faces deportation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An alien worker who has been in the CNMI for 17 straight years without going home and is now facing a deportation case says he will seek asylum if he is forced to depart.

Aquilino C. Castillo, a 56-year-old Filipino carpenter, was arrested early this week after the Division of Immigration filed a deportation case against him for allegedly overstaying in the CNMI for over two years now.

Castillo was brought to the Superior Court Friday for a bail hearing. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a $1,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

Immigration investigator John Peter stated in his declaration that Castillo's worker's entry permit expired on May 12, 2006.

But Castillo, in a letter to Wiseman, said he believes he is a victim because his last employer, Ramon Manahane, kept promising him that his permit papers had been processed.

Castillo appealed to Wiseman to consider his situation for humanitarian reasons.

He said he never had a vacation for 17 years and that the CNMI has become his second home.

"The most valuable time of my life I spent here. I spent all my money here as well. I got nobody in the Philippines. I lost everybody," Castillo said.

The carpenter asked the judge to allow him to stay and work in the CNMI until the federalization law takes effect.

He said under the federalization law, long-term workers like him are subject to protection and not deportation.

Castillo said if forced to depart, he will consider filing for asylum protection with the Attorney General's Office.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

RECOVERY ACT

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Office of the Governor is pleased to announce the availability of federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and it is requesting pre-qualified programs under the Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Programs to submit their application.

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the landmark American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Recovery Act"). As one of its many elements, the Recovery Act provides through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) funding for grants to assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement (including support for hiring), to combat violence against women, to fight internet crimes against children, to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crimes, and to support youth mentoring. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Office of the Governor is in full support of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) commitment to a working partnership to ensure this funding invests in the American workforce.

A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each program which are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

FY 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: $1,640,925
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

FY 2009 Recovery Act - Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Victim Assistance Formula Grant: $206,000
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program supports trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

Reports: As one of the critical requirements under the Recovery Act, CJPA is encouraging all eligible subawardees to observe and comply with the following statement from the Department of Justice:
"Reporting; DUNS and CCR. Quarterly reporting requirements for Recovery Act awards include reporting with respect to subawards. In order to facilitate that reporting, award recipients must work with their first-tier subawardees (if any) to ensure that, no later than the due date of the award recipient's first quarterly report after a subaward is made, the subawardee has a DUNS number and is registered with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database."

The available funds was proposed and approved by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Office of Victims of Crime (OVC). The funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. The Supervisory Council is expected to meet on late May and will be announced.

A "hardcopy" of the application is due and must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 22, 2009.

For more information, please contact the CJPA at 664-4550/7 or stop by the office on Capitol Hill (Bldg. #1314 or #1315). Also, the application template is available on the CJPA website at www.cjpa.gov.mp for use. If necessary, please call Mr. Jerome Ierome, Executive Director at 664-4557.

/s/ Hon. Miguel S. Demapan
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Volume XIX, Issue No. 118

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Two for the road

Dick Cheney and Fidel Castro may not have a lot in common, but they share this: too much time on their hands. Rather than gracefully exit the world stage after a long run, they have decided they are indispensable defenders of the faith—albeit different faiths, of course.

For eight years, we could get scarcely a word out of Vice President Cheney as he governed in the shadow of President George W. Bush. Now there's no escaping him on Fox, CNN and CBS' "Face the Nation," where he explained this week that if he didn't defend the Bush record, "then there isn't anybody there . . . to tell the truth." Really? Not in the whole country?

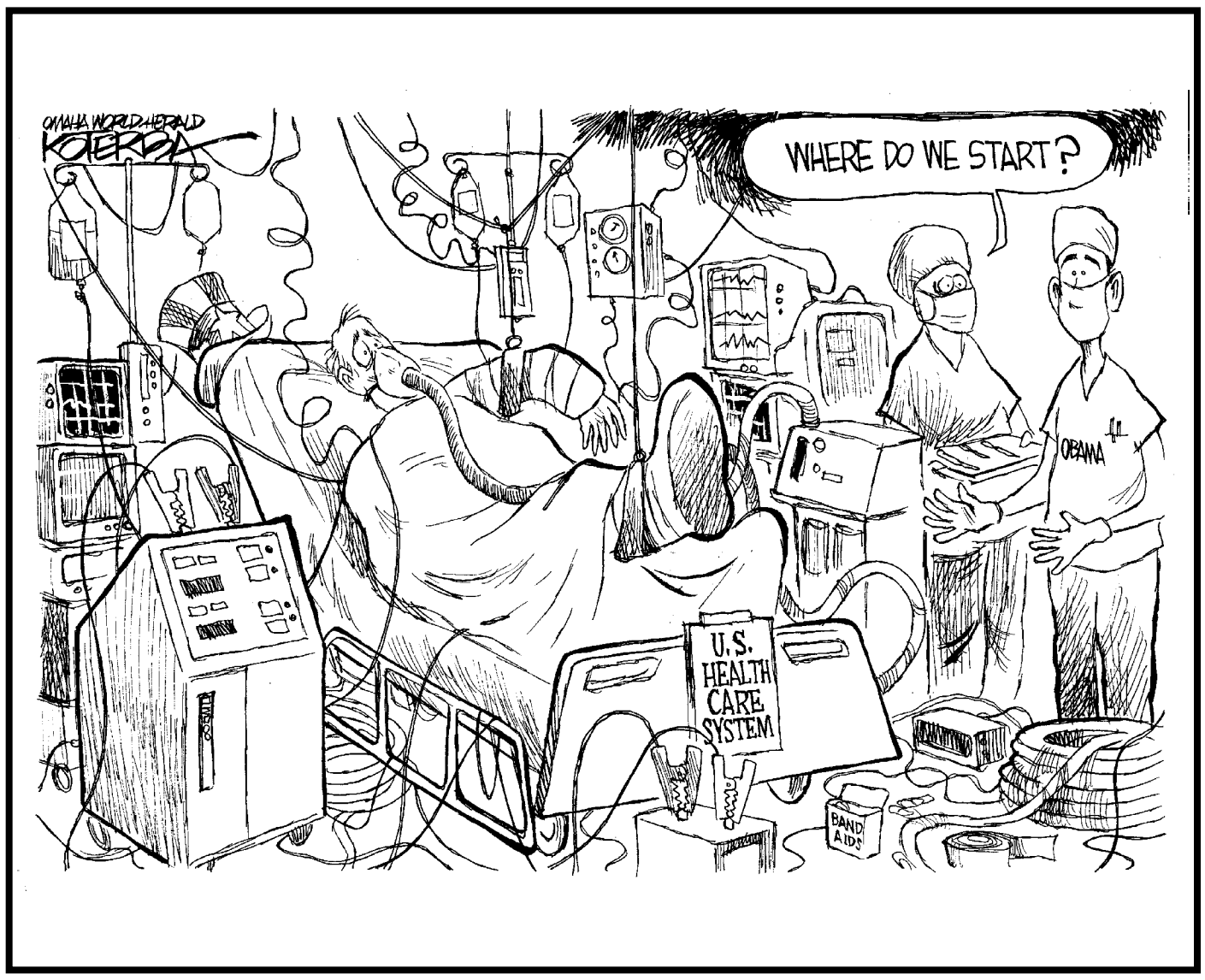
Cheney has been fear-mongering, repeatedly warning that President Barack Obama's policies put the United States at risk while insisting that torture works. Or, as he put it, that "enhanced interrogation techniques" yielded information that saved American lives. Besides, he added, "this was a presidential-level decision. ... He signed off on it." So if you don't like it, blame Bush.

As to the future of his defeated Republican Party, Cheney sided with conservative critic Rush Limbaugh and attacked one of the more popular GOP members, former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, for having voted for Obama. "I didn't know he was still a Republican," Cheney said. "I assumed that was some indication of his loyalty." That doesn't sound like a winning strategy for appealing to moderates.

Former Cuban President Fidel Castro, meanwhile, has become a columnist, to the apparent detriment of his brother and successor, Raul. Last month, after Raul Castro extended a hand to Obama by offering to discuss "human rights, freedom of the press, political prisoners, everything," big brother quickly tamped down expectations. He wrote in a "Reflections of Fidel" column that Obama had "misinterpreted" Raul, who simply meant he was not afraid of "addressing" any issue. We read that to mean: Don't confuse talk with action. This week, he stepped on his brother's efforts to improve relations with Mexico, charging that President Felipe Calderon had delayed telling the world of the swine flu outbreak until after Obama's visit. As for a case of swine flu diagnosed in Cuba, he wrote, "the CIA did not introduce it. It came from Mexico."

We believe there is virtue in stepping aside. Mr. Cheney, the Republicans lost. Give the new administration a little breathing room, as per tradition—write your book, maybe take up a cause. Mr. Castro, Cubans didn't have an opportunity to vote you out of office, but half a century is enough. Your brother is the president now; give him a chance. And to both of you: Don't you want to spend more time with the family?

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



We are the Middle Kingdom: China

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

On March 12, China commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake that proved to be a wake-up call not only on China as a country but also of the Chinese people as a worldwide community responding as one and in kind, and more importantly, of China as a grateful and accountable recipient of the care of an incipiently compassionate global community.

In a televised day-long festivity in Sichuan, a we-are-the-world like ambience and consciousness-raising fest that was phenomenologically religious in construct and tone (in Christian liturgy, confession-praise-and-dedication, or in secular dramaturgy, reality confrontation-situational challenge-ethical demand) saw familiar TV personalities leading a memorial of the innocent suffering inflicted by nature's tremors on a region and a people, and the heroic responses of groups and individuals, civic, public and private, within and without the affected areas.

In a ritual reminiscent to this observer to the evangelistic fervor of Protestant Church revivals, the nation took stock of where it has been, where it is at, and where it is going, taking a solemn quarter day to resolve that henceforth, they would care for each other as they had done shortly after the awesome visitation of devastation, completion, finality, and death.

Of course, things Chinese had come to preoccupy this paper's attention of late, and seemingly, this island's awareness for this past few years. *Saipan Tribune* columnist Ed Stephens Jr. discovered China 24/7 in Shenzhen; intent in shifting some of that yuan to his side of the ledger though for all his practical concerns on language and culture, he would not cross the Hanzi line. Kristi Eaton magnetically floated along Shanghai's high-tech environs and viewed the Great Wall, if I recall right. Most recently, Walt F. J. Goodridge, our Jamaican Saipanpreneur, found himself a novelty in Yuyuan's garden and the watery surroundings of Suzhou of the moon-faced ladies, and Hangzhou of the tranquil lakes neighboring Shanghai.

Perry Tenorio, of course, is holding the assumption held by the previous Commonwealth administration and continuing with the current one, that the visitors' industry could be served well with nurturing our relationships with China and Russia, and has brought the images of the relatively pristine condition of the island's environment to the attention of travel agents up and down the eastern Asian continental corridor. Peripatetic Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela keeps establishing sister city relationships with many places including those in China. So we have not been short of imaginal *chow mein* on our mental diet lately.

Unspoken, though previously revealed in such bumper sticker as "I brake for garment factory worker," is the underlying prejudice toward the enigma of the non-communicative children of the Manchu and the Han, the Qin and the Zhou, who live on our shores and shop in our mom-and-pop stores. More recently, they seem to be hanging out in limbo waiting for the judgment on their fate as island residents when the federalized administration of immigration takes effect.

I remember last year mid-July staying in a rundown, relatively inexpensive out-of-the-way hotel in rapidly modernized Po Dong across the river from historic Shanghai Po Xi (east of the river) unable to proceed with a planned trip to Chengdu and Chungking due to the restrictions on foreigners in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquakes. Add the sudden national interest then in the upcoming Beijing Olympics 2008 in August and all the rails that lead to Beijing were overly congested. Security-conscious *Zhong Guo* (China) clamped on local travel and though facial features make it easy for me to blend with the woodwork, my camera and laptop were an easy giveaway that I was a stranger in a foreign land, not a very welcome sight to ardent *Zhang Fu* (Communist Party government) apparatchiks!

This mid-May day past the revered and valued five-labor-day holidays in this land of Mao's emancipated peasants, images of the aftermath of the tremors of May 2008 dominates the airwaves, digitized and otherwise. The proverbial sleeping giant astride like a chicken with its head abut the *Chao Xian* (Korean) peninsula, and its feathery hinds, the Himalayan range of *Xizhang* (Tibet), its *peh peh* (tail) on the famed Silk Road through the Gobi desert by Urumqi (pronounce, *uh-rooh-ma-chee*) in the far West, is realizing that it has become, next to its former nemesis the United States, the second largest economy in the world surpassing its trading partner and defense-reflexive neighbor, Japan.

Continuing a rather complicated but engaging personal "mission of mercy" that saw me a fortnight ago in New York City, I find myself watching this national interplay of song-dance-speeches, and more songs, in the Hanggu District of Shengyang, northeast province of Liaoning, in China's fourth largest city behind Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Beijing. I am here to secure passage for a Chinese citizen to

See WE ARE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

A matter of life and death

If there ever was a crisis that needs to be addressed, it is the ongoing crisis at the Commonwealth Health Center. While our federalization lawsuit, the soon-to-be-depleted CNMI Retirement Fund, and the scandals at CUC have received a lot of attention, our health system in the CNMI seems to have been largely ignored and forgotten.

CHC has become the proverbial elephant in the room. Everyone sees the problem, but no one really wants to acknowledge it. My question is, *why*? Dr. Sharma, the chief medical officer of CHC is suddenly leaving, and she is claiming it is for personal reasons. Is it really? I have heard from reliable sources that her husband, Michael Thomas, who is a Systems Administrator at CHC, was being pressured to quit. Dr. Loutaby, CHC's nephrologist, or kidney doctor, was told to take a 20 percent pay cut or get out of Dodge. Since Dr. Loutaby left, there has been no replacement for him, even though kidney problems in the CNMI are more common than political promises in an election year.

And now, there is talk about demotions and the shutting down of Public Health's Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. There are 114 dialysis patients in the CNMI. The CNMI ranks number three in the entire world for diabetes per capita. Yet, only $73,000 is budgeted annually on preventing diabetes in the CNMI. Good people like Tayna Camacho and members of the DPCP and the CNMI Diabetes Coalition have to perform miracles with a total budget that is less than what some Cabinet members make. Thank God for people like Tayna. Hasn't this administration ever heard of the old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure?"

We need to be honest with ourselves. Political interference and gamesmanship are the true culprits of why things are so bad at CHC, not federalization. Federalization is not chasing away the doctors at CHC. It is politics, plain and simple!

A dear friend of mine who I grew up with since 1975 left Saipan last year and moved to Alaska. He didn't move because of our dying economy. He and his wife had good-paying jobs, they had a nice home, and they loved it here. He told me the main reason why he and his wife decided to move was because he knew how bad things were getting at CHC, and he was not willing to risk his family's lives should a medical emergency ever arise. How many other families have moved for the same reason?

With regard to our economy, a few months back, I read that our leaders wanted to pursue the world's golden market, in the hopes of luring senior citizens to buy homes and spend most of their golden years here. One of the chief concerns was Article XII. Forget about Article XII. Senior citizens would not want to move to an island where the health care is worse than Third World countries. They are older and their health is more fragile, and they would be playing Russian roulette with their lives by moving here right now.

To those who continue to remain silent because they are worried about losing their jobs if they speak out, please realize that your job is meaningless if you lose your life. And if you lose a loved one because of the torrid state of affairs at CHC, your life will feel meaningless.

To our leaders, if there ever were a time for an oversight of a government agency, it is right now. I sincerely hope our Legislature calls in all administrators at CHC as well as the few doctors that are remaining to find out what exactly is going on at CHC. Look in to how many millions is being spent every single year on medical referrals, and how many millions could be saved if we could treat most of the illnesses on island. Talk to patients. Talk to members of the Diabetes Coalition and the Diabetes Control and Prevention Program. The truth will eventually come out if you push hard and do your homework.

And last but not least, to Dr. Sharma and all of our doctors in the CNMI who work the long hours and do their very best to save lives despite the insanity and pressure of island politics, you are truly appreciated and we thank you for your service. Your commitment to the health and well-being of our people will never be forgotten.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

There is hope!

I've been searching for a very good reason why we should stand up, look straight ahead, and keep believing that there is still hope, that the Department of Homeland Security will open its door and remove the barrier that prevents us from having permanent residency on the islands, besides the fact that this has been home for a lot of foreign workers and the future of their families as well.

President Obama believes that America's broken immigration system can only be fixed by putting politics aside and offering a complete solution to secure the border, enforce laws and reaffirm its heritage as a nation of immigrants (www.whitehouse.com/issues/immigration). He believes that U.S. immigration policy should be driven by the best judgment of what is in the economic interest of the United States and what is of the best interest of American workers. But he also recognizes that an orderly, controlled border and an immigration system designed to meet the country's economic needs are important pillars of a healthy and robust economy. In the CNMI, there is economic need because it involves the need for foreign skilled workers.

President Obama promised to fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy and enable legal immigration so *that families stay together*. He will also remove incentives to enter the country illegally by preventing employers from hiring undocumented workers and enforce the law. He is also supporting the system that allow undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens.

Fellow foreign workers, let us examine ourselves in view of the impending implementation of PL 110-229 that was initially scheduled to take effect on June 1, 2009 but was extended for 180 days to Nov. 28, 2009. Aren't we alien workers with legal status to remain on the islands? The law says an alien is a person who comes from a foreign country. Any alien who violates the term of his/her admission may be deemed out of status. Becoming out of status occurs when a nonimmigrant remains in the United States beyond the expiration date of their visa or when a nonimmigrant engages in employment in the United States for which he/she is not authorized. A person who overstays a nonimmigrant visa should be properly described as an illegal alien. By law the illegal alien must leave the country in order to apply through the proper immigration procedure.

President Obama supports an immigration system that allows undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine and go back to the line for the opportunity to become a citizen—an indication that the door is open for all long term foreign workers to be lawfully admitted as residents of the CNMI.

There are advantages for employers if all foreign workers are admitted as residents of CNMI after long years of continued employment because they will not spend a lot of money for the processing of H visas to maintain the same number of employee on current status. Do we have time to go back to the end of the line after 10 years or more of continued service on U.S. soil? Isn't it but appropriate for Homeland Security to consider us as aliens with legal status and with good standing, contributing to the economic needs of the islands? We deserve to be regarded and rewarded as foreign workers with good standing and/or immigrant alien because we are legally admitted as guest workers.

Section 6 of PL 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA 2008) states that the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Office of CNMI Governor, shall report to Congress no later than two years after the enactment of CNRA 2008 on:

- The number of aliens residing in the CNMI;
- The description of the legal status of such aliens;
- The number of years each aliens has been residing in the Commonwealth;
- The current and future requirement of the Commonwealth economy for an alien workforce; and
- Such recommendation to the Congress, as the Secretary may deem appropriate, related to whether or not Congress should consider permitting lawfully admitted guest workers lawfully residing in the Commonwealth on such enactment date to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.

"No later that two years." It could be possible for the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Homeland Security and the Office of the Governor to report earlier because foreign workers have been in the CNMI for almost two decades. That length of stay is enough for the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Homeland Security and the Office of the Governor to decide and report on these.

What if they amend PL 110-229 and extend its implementation for another 180 days from Nov. 28, 2009? Our length of stay and service on U.S. soil (in the CNMI) have already exceeded the required number of years to be able to apply as immigrants or legal permanent residents on U.S. soil. There is hope, let them hear us!

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Let's ask, seek, and knock!

It is common knowledge in the CNMI that all companies, either private or public, need a helping hand from foreign countries to boost the progress of their business operations.

For instance, can you imagine a hotel running a business without an accountant? Will you build a public hospital such as CHC or private clinic without the assistance of our foreign nurses? Will you run a construction firm without the need for electrical and civil engineers, architects and construction workers? A computer shop store without knowledgeable computer technicians? How about cooks in restaurants, doctors, dentists, machinists, mechanics, teachers, paralegals, building maintenance? Of course we should not forget the presence of our house workers, who have wholeheartedly dedicated their lives to doing our household chores, taking care of our children while we are at our respective places of work?

We are aware that in some of these work related categories, there are foreign workers who have become U.S. citizens but yet decide to stay in the Commonwealth. This is because they love this island. They have not moved out; instead, they opted to stay.

Beyond the expectations of our employers, we, the alien workers, have done a great deal to be more useful and be more productive, productive not only in the sense of providing our employers' needs but also extending our knowledge and efforts for the betterment of our society. We have freely done it, not only because we are being compensated, but simply because we have gained love and are paying back our respect to the island we consider our second home.

We have embraced with our hearts the culture they have, and even sometimes practiced it to the best that we can. We legally reside and have been employed here for decades. We became law abiding foreign workers, especially in terms of paying taxes, strictly obeying Labor and Immigration rules and regulations, and have tried not to violate the laws and from becoming a burden on the Commonwealth.

I am writing this letter not to demand but to ask, seek and knock. The Bible says, "Ask and you shall receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and they will open the door for you!" I read this to mean "Ask [for improved immigration status] and you will receive. Seek [for assistance from various government elected officials] and you will find. Knock [on the door of the Secretary of Homeland Security] and they will open the door to long-term guest workers in the CNMI!"

Rick Custodio
Garapan, Saipan

WE ARE

From Page 10

visit her *Mei Guo* (Gringo) husband confined in New York City.

Alighting from a Northwest flight from Tokyo in the midst of the swine flu scare that strained Mexican-Chinese relationship over the cancellation of flights to Mexico and the quarantine of Mexico-originating passengers in Beijing, I was looked at with some interest when I indicated that I was recently in the Big Apple within the last 10 days. Not exhibiting any symptoms other than the devilish malice of coughing to attract official attention so that one can be pulled off the long queue, I managed to exit the new Beijing terminal to the welcoming sight of a prominently neon-lighted penta-circles aloft the capital city's skies.

Deciding to be on a retreat mode, given that I have time (got a window of opportunity to chat with a Consular officer in Shengyang for three minutes this coming Thursday between 4pm to 5pm), I become a traveler (as opposed to a gawking tourist), a participant observer in this Shaoling-steeped region of the country that is also a center of rapid industrialization and modernization that obviously is a rich fodder for further reflection by this writer from a little island currently struggling with its paradoxical affinity and disdain to things Chinese.

But for now, it is China in the limelight, on the other side of the Sichuan Basin earthquake tragedy, into a risen emergent new life from the grave, for indeed, from the ashes the *fenghuang* (Phoenix) will rise!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

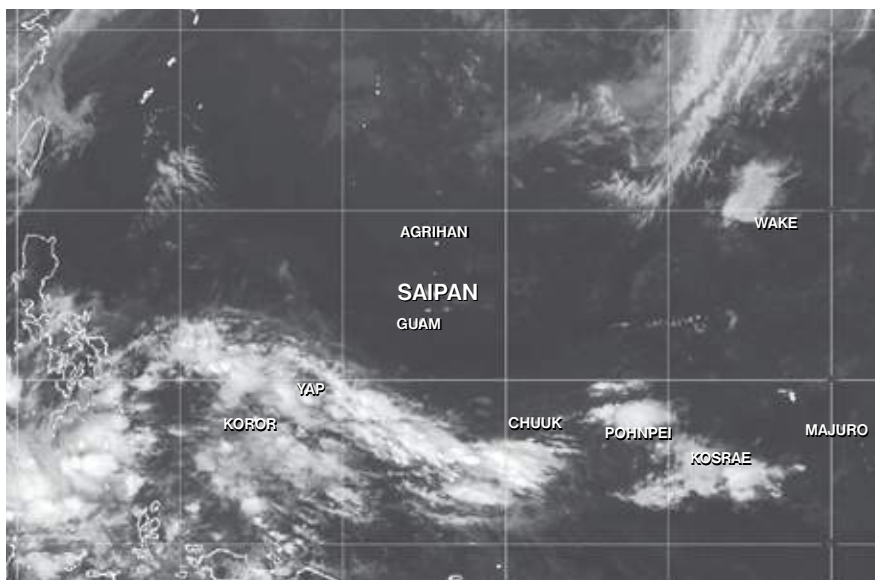
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼55
Beijing	Sunny	▲91	▼64
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼60
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼48
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼71
New York	Cloudy	▲64	▼52
Osaka	Cloudy	▲73	▼58
Paris	Showers	▲58	▼47
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼50
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼62
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲67	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An near-equatorial trough located southwest of Koror stretches northwestward from EQ133E to a circulation centered at 6N130E. Convergent winds primarily north and east of the trough are generating a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 8N130E to 8N138E to EQ138E. This area includes Koror. Trade-wind convergence occurring southeast of Yap is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within an area enclosed by a line from 8N140E to 1N148E to 1N140E. Scattered showers are also found just south of Chuuk and just west of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 8N143E to 5N150E to 7N157E. A surface trough located west of Pohnpei stretches southward from 8N156E to 2N155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Pohnpei and near Kosrae or within 70 miles of a line from Pohnpei to 3N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:46 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:09 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:48 PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:24 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:52 AM	12:54 PM
Tuesday	1:28 AM	1:43 PM
Wednesday	2:04 AM	2:23 PM
Thursday	2:42 AM	3:26 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	4:23 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Emmanuel College graduate aces NCLEX-PN

The first Emmanuel College of CNMI graduate to take the national licensure examination for practical nurses passed the grueling test less than six months after completing the 11-month comprehensive program.

Sarah Jane D. Santos finished Emmanuel College's Vocational Nursing Program in November 2008 as part of the first ever group of 20 locally-educated and trained practical nursing graduates. She took the NCLEX-PN on May 8 and got the results on May 11.

Santos also attended and completed the free two-week NCLEX Review Program provided by Emmanuel College with expert reviewers Ramon and Elsa Factor, whose track record as nursing instructors have been impeccable.

Married to Jefferson, a registered nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, Santos shares this feat with her husband and their two daughters.

"I never had a doubt in my mind and in my heart that I want to be a nurse and when I heard of the 11-month program at Emmanuel College, I just knew I should be in the program," she said.

Santos said she hopes to find job as a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center "to share with the community what I have learned from the 11-month program at Emmanuel College where we were taught that nursing is truly a work of heart."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sarah Jane D. Santos passed the grueling national licensure examination for practical nurses less than six months after completing an 11-month comprehensive program at the Emmanuel College.

"I dedicate and share this honor with Emmanuel College for providing me the foundation of my dreams. I always said to myself back when I was a student at Emmanuel College that I should give time to my studies and implement what my instructors have taught me. I also dedicate my success to my husband who was with me every step of the way," she added.

Santos, along with her fellow vocational nursing graduates, was honored with a commemorative resolution by the CNMI House of Representatives. HR No. 16-70, adopted by the CNMI House of Representatives on Dec. 4, 2008, was sponsored by Reps. Justo S. Quitugua, Edwin P, Aldan, Oscar M. Babauta and Francisco M. Dela Cruz.

Emmanuel College board chair Sedy Demesa thanked the legislators for their support in the institution's nursing program and its efforts to improve the employability of the local workforce.

"Nursing offers immense employment opportunities, as well as exceptional financial and professional advantages and we would like to make these opportunities accessible to the people of Saipan, Tinian and Rota," she said.

Emmanuel College's Vocational Nursing program is approved and accredited by the CNMI Board of Nursing for a total of 1,564 hours of theory and clinical training for entry-level employment in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

Touted as one of the most financially rewarding professions in the world today, nursing does not only offer an employment opportunity but also presents financial and professional advantages.

The average licensed nurse in the U.S. earns between $43,370 and $63,360 a year—some even earn as much as $71,000 to $113,000 a year. The majority of nursing jobs come with good benefits as well. Plus, in an effort to attract and retain more nurses, many employers offer signing bonuses, as well as family-friendly work schedules and subsidized training.

Imbued with the determination to bring American education closer to students in the Asia-Pacific region, Demesa established Emmanuel College, which commits to recruit, educate, graduate and assimilate individuals into the nursing profession.

Emmanuel College also holds strong partnerships with some of the West Coast's biggest employers of healthcare professionals and other U.S.-based companies engaged in various activities such as real estate, construction, staffing and others. With these partnerships, Emmanuel College—through Emmanuel Staffing—can help facilitate employment in the U.S. mainland of its nursing graduates upon compliance with existing federal immigration rules and regulations. ***(PR)***

NMC registration begins this week

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2009 semester will begin on Wednesday, May 20, 2009, and will continue to May 22, 2009. New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the Summer 2009 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2009 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses, Extended Summer Session (twelve-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records and picking up an application form. Application forms can also be downloaded from the NMC website.

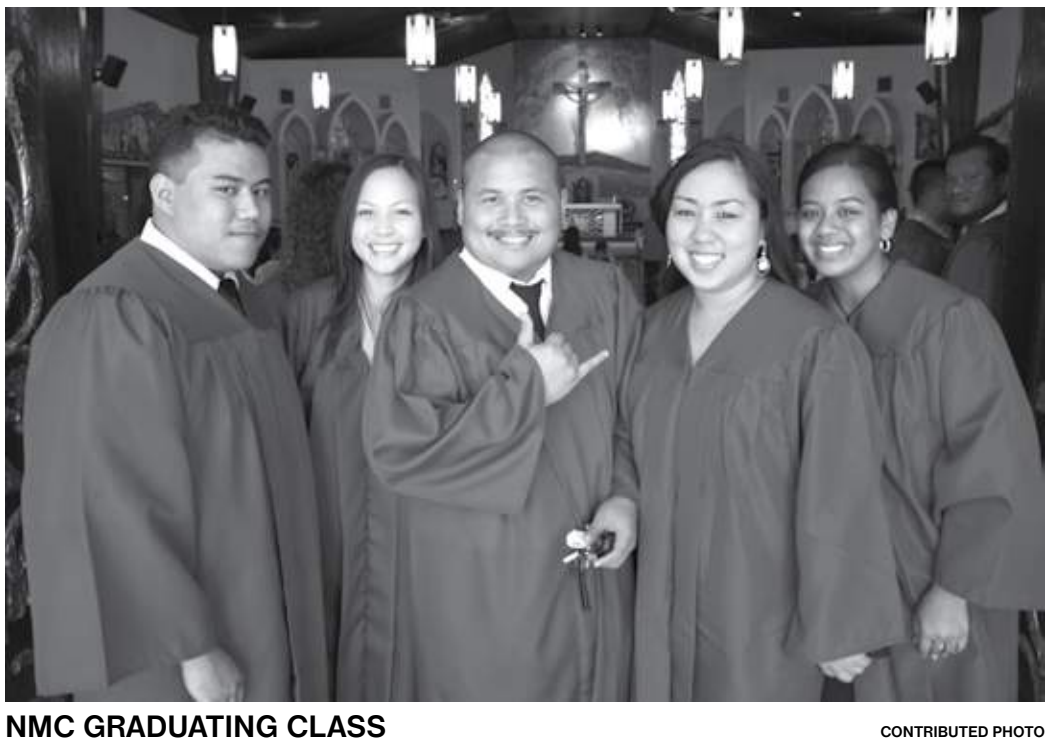
Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration, which is May 22, 2009, provided that both placement tests have been taken. Note the following dates below:

May 20-22 Registration for Summer 2009 Semester (9am to 6pm)

May 26-June 2 Registration for Summer Session II (9am to 5pm)

May 26 First Day of Instruction

For more information about admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***



NMC GRADUATING CLASS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some members the Northern Marianas College's graduating class of 2009 are all smiles before the start of the baccalaureate Mass held last Saturday at Kristo Rai Church. The college's formal commencement ceremonies will be held on May 23.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 TEL: (670) 322-6537/8; FAX: (670) 322-6536;
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2009 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting Thursday May 21, 2009 at the Bay View Hotel in Rota at 10:00am - 2:00pm.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY ITEM
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Review & Adoption of Agenda
- D. Review & Adoption of Minutes (Mar. 09, 2009)

II. REPORTS
- A. SRC Chairperson
- B. Committee Chairpersons
- C. OVR Director

III. OLD BUSINESS
- A. FY 2010 State Plan Updates
- B. Review & Adoption of Policy Items
- C. SRC/OVR Vacancies
- D. Review of Consumer Forms

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Projects under the ARRA funding
- B. Accessible Mass Transit

V. CONSUMERS' FORUM

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

SRC Chairperson

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require reasonable accommodations are asked to contact Magin Iginoef at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY), four days in advance for necessary accomodations.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Island Snapshots

JOETEN DONATION

Clarence Tenorio Sr. leads the Joeten Charitable Foundation in renewing its partnership with the Commonwealth Cancer Association with the donation of $3,000 to the Marianas March Against Cancer, becoming a title sponsor in this upcoming weekend's event. The 2009 MMAC will be held on May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. The Joeten Charitable Foundation made the donation on May 15, 2009, during the grand opening of the Joeten Kagman Market.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GUANGZHOU VISIT

From left to right, Liu Wei Hong, Secretary-General of Guangdong International Culture Exchange Centre; Saipan mayor assistant Jose Tenorio; Calvin Lai, Saipan mayor-appointed Economic & Tourism Ambassador to China; Guangdong Gov. Huang Huahua; Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela; Li Ming, Director General, Guanzhou Municipal People's Government Foreign Affairs Office, Hong Kong & Macao Affairs Office; Lu, Bin Ping, Deputy Secretary General of Guangdong International Culture Exchange Centre.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TINIAN SOJOURN

Olongapo City Mayor James " Bong " Gordon, center with cap, visits JC Cafe - Tinian on May 15, 2009. With him are Samuel del Rosario and Honorio Gomez. They were here to attend the Second Annual Pacific Mayor's Conference.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KOREAN MEMORIAL

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Korean dignitaries take part in May 9's memorial service in Marpi to pay tribute to Korean citizens who lost their lives in the Northern Marianas during World War II.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio participate in a memorial service in Marpi on May 9 to pay tribute to Korean citizens who lost their lives in the Northern Marianas during World War II.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MISSING SIGNS

A downed street sign lies forlorn on Middle Road yesterday afternoon. A lot of Saipan's street signs are either missing or have fallen to the ground, but the government has yet to either replace or fix them to make them usable to motorists and pedestrians.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The group of municipal councilors from San Pedro, Laguna, the Philippines visit the JC Café on Tinian during their recent visit to the island over the weekend. The group was here for the Second Annual Pacific Mayor's Conference.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Meltdown 101: How are food prices set?

By EMILY FREDRIX
AP FOOD INDUSTRY WRITER

In a sour economy, you can pad your budget by cutting out cable, trips to restaurants and vacations. But you can't cut out food.

Americans spend about 12.5 percent of their budgets on food each year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That means many families' finances are at the mercy of fluctuations in food prices, which soared last year and now are retreating.

What determines just how much you pay at the supermarket for a loaf of bread or a bag of chips?

Here are some questions and answers about the pricing of groceries.

Q: How are food prices set?

A: Food prices are closely linked to the cost of their main ingredients—like dairy, corn and wheat—along with the fuel that's used to transport groceries to your supermarket. All of those items, called commodities, can be volatile since their price is set based on demand and trading on various exchanges.

Last summer, those prices soared to record highs. Crude oil prices climbed to more than $100 a barrel, and corn and wheat prices also peaked. Many factors were at play, including Midwestern floods that devastated corn and soybean crops, and increasing demand as the global economy—for the moment, at least—was improving.

Some groups, especially food makers, also say a rise in demand for the corn-based fuel additive ethanol pushed up the cost of food, as supply had difficulty keeping up with the demand for corn as an ingredient in both food and fuel. Last month, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said higher use of ethanol accounted for about 10 percent to 15 percent of the rise in food prices between April 2007 and April 2008.

The CBO said in a report that the effect of ethanol on future food prices is not yet clear, since it could lead to an increased supply of corn, which could lower food prices.

Q: How did food makers react to soaring commodity prices?

A: Food companies wanted to protect their profit margins and make sure they weren't losing money, so they boosted prices across many of their product lines. According to the Consumer Price Index, the average cost of food rose 5.9 percent last year, which is faster than previous annual rates in recent years.

Q: Can I have some examples of how grocery prices are set?

A: Let's look at two, very different examples: cheese and cereal.

For most foods, the biggest factor is the price of commodities. For foods like packaged salads or cheese—consisting mainly of a core ingredient, with little else involved—commodity costs can make up between 60 percent and 80 percent of the cost of the product, says Steve McLaughlin, a pricing expert in Bain & Company's retail and consumer products practices.

For foods where more manufacturing is involved, like cereal, commodity costs can account for less than 60 percent of the cost, he said. The rest of the cost goes into things like manufacturing, packaging, delivery, marketing and innovation—that is, adding value to products by creating new flavors or different sizes, or boosting quality.

Even pricing experts are reluctant to get more specific than that because there is so much variation among products. But McLaughlin did give a general breakdown of the price a grocery store might pay for a typical food product:

- About 35 percent: Raw materials—though the proportion of the cost coming from this can vary depending on the type of product.
- About 15 percent: Converting raw materials into food—a cost that includes plants, labor and utilities.
- About 10 percent: Packaging.
- Between 5 and 10 percent: Selling and distributing the product.
- About 10 percent: Advertising, along with research and develepent to come up with new products.
- About 5 to 10 percent: The cost of managing the business.
- About 15 percent: Operating margins—as in how much profit a company makes on its sales, before interest and taxes.

And don't forget, this is a breakdown of how a food company might price a product it sells to retailers, like grocery stores. When the supermarket sells the item to you, some profit will get added to the price—a profit margin of 20 to 30 percent is typical.

Q: What's happening now with commodities?

A: Those prices have been coming down, partly because the recession is reducing demand. In tough times, companies idle their plants and people cut back on driving and spending. That all means less demand for fuel, and less demand means lower prices.

Corn, wheat, dairy have all fallen too for a variety of reasons, including slumping demand. That means farmers may not plant as much, which could eventually bolster prices by lessening the supply.

Q: What does that mean for food prices?

A: Prices are starting to fall. In the first three months of 2009, food prices fell at an 0.8 percent annual rate, according to the CPI.

Q: But my grocery bill isn't shrinking drastically. Why not?

A: While food ingredients cost less, food companies say they're still not as low as they've been in previous years. In fact, ingredient costs are still expected to be up this year for many major food makers like Kraft Foods Inc. and General Mills Inc.

Also, it's unclear how long commodity prices will stay down. Oil prices have been rising to around $60 a barrel since they fell below $35 in February, and higher fuel prices can mean more expensive commodities. Experts say food companies don't want to drop prices just to have to raise them again—that can disrupt business and confuse customers, or even turn them off entirely.

Q: Falling food prices are good news for consumers, right?

A: While lower food prices may help consumers as they try to stretch their budgets, there's a steeper cost to the economy: the risk of deflation.

Price cuts mean less money is being spent, which means companies make less money and, in turn, spend less money. When price declines become widespread and prolonged, you can enter a period of deflation. Economists worry about this because falling prices can hurt the value and prosperity of businesses, which can lead to wage cuts and layoffs.

The last bout of serious deflation in the U.S. happened in the 1930s—during the Great Depression

Fears about deflation have lessened as a result of interest rate cuts and other moves by the Federal Reserve to encourage spending and investment. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said earlier this week that the risk of deflation is "receding" but it shouldn't "be ignored."

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: May 18, 2009 **Closing date: June 1, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Position: 1 (one) ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., June 1, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) plus seven (7) years of progressive responsible experience in accounting or a four (4) year accounting Degree or related field from an accredited U.S. College or University with no less than two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional accounting level which two (2) years pertain to supervisory experience. Experience in the use of computerized systems, highly preferred is experience in MAS90. Experience in reconciling accounts receivable, accounts payable, preparation of Journal Entries and Collects.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

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OPENING: JUNE 05, 2009 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"SALE OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP THE SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

BIDDER(S) IS CAUTION TO INSPECT THE PROPERTY(S).

INSPECTION DATE IS SCHEDULE FROM **MAY 18, 2009 THRU JUNE 04, 2009 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.,** EXCEPT WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

HIGH COURT OF AMARICAN SAMOA
TRIAL DIVISION

DANIEL PANTEA, Petitioner, VS. MAY REUNION LOGO SOLO, Respondent.

DR No. 63-08
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
& PUBLICATION NOTICE

TO/IA: MAY REUNION LOGO SOLO

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN NOTICE that a Complaint has been filed against you before the High Court of American Samoa. The Complaint is for a divorce. You are required to serve an answer to the Complaint on Sharron Rancourt, attorney for Petitioner, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 4844, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799, no later than two (2) months and ten (10) days after the date of the first publication of this notice. You must also serve a copy of your answer on the Clerk of the High Court.

If you fail to do so, a judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Ua faaailoa atu nei ia oe ua faauluina nei i le Faamasinoga Maualuga, se mataupu faasaga ia te oe ona o divorce.

Ua polo'aiina nei oe ina ia tauaaoina se tali i lenei mataupu ia, Sharron Rancourt, loia so le itu fagi, ma o lona tuatasi o le P.O. Box 4844 Pago Pago American Samoa 96799, a o le'i mae'a masina e lua (2) ma aso e sefulu (10), mai le'ulua'i aso sa fa'asalalauina ai lenei fa'asilasilaga. E tatau ona e-tauaaoina mai se kopi o lau tali i le Failautusi o le Faamasinoga Maualuga.

O lou le utagia mai, ma e tuuina mai sei tali i lenei faasilasilaga, o le fai ai loa e le Faamasinoga se faaiuga i lenei mataupu, mo se fescaoani e pei ona talosagaina e le itu tagi.

Dated/Aso:

/s/ Clerk / Failautusi
High Court of American Samoa
Fa'amasinoga Maualuga
o Amerika Samoa

Nation

Pending Obama visit sparks protests at Notre Dame

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—Graduation festivities got under way at the University of Notre Dame on Saturday - as well as another day of demonstrations over President Barack Obama's appearance Sunday.

University spokesman Dennis Brown said there were no reports of protests on campus at any of the ceremonies held by various schools, centers and institutes. For the most part, the only difference on campus was the heightened security for Obama's visit, he said.

Bishop John D'Arcy, whose Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend includes the Notre Dame campus, helped students protesting Obama's visit kick off an all-night prayer vigil Saturday night. D'Arcy led them in prayer at the campus' grotto for more than 20 minutes and praised their plan to protest Obama's visit.

"The young people have behaved with great dignity. They have been firm in their purpose and strong in their purpose, but prayerful. They haven't followed those who said we're going to make it a circus," he said.

About 150 people, including students, parents and alumni, prayed with D'Arcy for three things: that Obama will change his support of abortion rights and embryonic stem-cell research, that people throughout the world gain a greater respect for life and that Notre Dame and other Roman Catholic universities will more fully embrace their Catholic identity.

D'Arcy spoke to the students about three hours after about 12,000 people attended a commencement Mass at the Joyce Center on Saturday evening. Neither D'Arcy nor the Rev. John Jenkins, the university president, mentioned the controversy during the 85-minute service.

Earlier in the day at the school's front gate, more than 100 people gathered to protest the decision to invite Obama to speak at commencement and receive an honorary degree.

Shortly after noon, 23 protesters marched on to campus. Nineteen were arrested on trespassing charges and four also faced a charge of resisting law enforcement, said Sgt. Bill Redman, St. Joseph County Police Department spokesman. They were being held on $250 bond.

AP

Norma McCorvey, second from left, and Father Norman Weslin, center, lead an anti-abortion protest Saturday, May 16, 2009 in South Bend, Indiana.

Swine flu closes more NYC schools, spreads in Asia

NEW YORK (AP)—The swine flu virus continues spreading in New York City—closing more schools and showing up in a jail—while the disease also reached further into Asia among travelers returning from the United States.

An assistant school principal in New York remained hospitalized in critical condition Saturday and an inmate who entered the city's jail complex on Rikers Island about a month ago was diagnosed with swine flu on Friday.

The city Department of Correction said that the flu hadn't spread to other prisoners in the 13,200-inmate system.

The Rikers Island inmate—whose name or reason for being in custody wasn't released—was improving since his hospitalization on Wednesday and wasn't in serious condition, Correction Department spokesman Stephen Morello said.

Morello said the inmate came into contact with about 70 other prisoners in two housing units at the center, and all had been examined and none came down with the flu.

The jail canceled weekend visits for those inmates and advised any other inmates' family members who were feeling ill not to come, he said. Surgical masks were passed out to those inmates and officers on the two housing units; hand sanitizer was given to everyone in the jails, he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than 4,700 confirmed and probable cases have been reported in 46 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia. Five people have died in the United States, all with underlying ailments.

Reunited with mom, abducted boy headed back home

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—A 3-year-old boy abducted from his family home in San Bernardino nearly two weeks ago was being evaluated at a local hospital Saturday after returning from the Mexican border town of Mexicali, where he had been found wandering the streets, sheriff's officials said.

After the physical and emotional evaluations, Briant Rodriguez was expected to return home for the first time since two armed men snatched him from his house after bursting in and tying up his family, San Bernardino County Sheriff Rod Hoops said.

"I've been doing this for 30 years. I'm not saying it doesn't happen ... but the odds of finding him safe and alive - the odds of finding him alive - went down every day," Hoops said. "Our detectives never gave up."

Briant and his mother, Maria Rosalina Millan, were reunited earlier Saturday in Calexico, Calif., a day after detectives and FBI agents received a call from officials in the neighboring Mexican city of Mexicali saying they found a boy that could be Briant, sheriff's Lt. Rick Ells said.

Ells said a municipal police officer in Mexicali found the boy wandering the streets by himself late Thursday.

The officer initially thought the child was from the neighborhood and took him to several houses seeking his family before leaving him in child protective custody, Ells said.

AP

This picture provided by the San Bernardino County Sherriff's Department on Saturday, May 16, 2009 shows Briant Rodriguez and his mother, Maria Rosalina Millan in Calexico, Calif.

Spacewalkers pull off toughest Hubble repairs yet

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Spacewalking astronauts gave the Hubble Space Telescope a more commanding view of the cosmos by installing a new high-tech instrument Saturday, then pulled off their toughest job yet: fixing a broken camera.

It was the third spacewalk in as many days for the shuttle Atlantis crew and the most intricate ever performed because of the camera repairs. Astronauts had never before tried to take apart a science instrument at the 19-year-old observatory.

Hubble's chief mechanic, John Grunsfeld, deftly opened up the burned-out camera and removed all four electronic cards that needed replacement.

"Somehow I don't think brain surgeons go 'woo-hoo' when they pull something out," one of the astronauts observed from inside Atlantis.

To everyone's surprise, the new cards and power supply pack went in just as smoothly. And the astronauts found themselves running ahead of schedule for a change, their spacewalk lasting the allotted 6 1/2 hours. The first two spacewalks ended up running long because of unexpected difficulties encountered with Hubble, last visited seven years ago.

The astronauts cheered when Mission Control radioed up the news that the repaired camera had passed the first round of testing.

"That's unbelievable," Grunsfeld said.

A second round of testing was expected to last well into the night.

Initial second-round testing didn't go quite as perfectly as NASA had hoped. Two channels—wide-field and high-resolution—were dead on the camera. Amid time constraints, NASA could only choose to fix one: the wide-field. But they had held out a slight hope that fixing wide-field would somehow also work on the high-resolution. Test results Saturday night showed that as expected the high resolution channel wasn't working, but it was too early to call it a failure. Results were still not in on wide-field late Saturday.

ACROSS THE NATION

DA says Wis. girl's diabetic death was 'needless'

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP)—The mother of a diabetic 11-year-old girl knew her daughter was dying but disregarded advice from other family members to seek medical attention, prosecutors said Saturday. Leilani Neumann, 41, told a friend that "she sensed the spirit or Angel of Death present at her home" shortly before her daughter Madeline died, Marathon County Assistant District Attorney LaMont Jacobson said in opening statements. He told the jury that the case wasn't about religious freedom or parental rights, but "about the needless suffering and death of an 11-year-old child" who only needed some fluids and insulin to get better.

Autopsy inconclusive for boy found buried in park

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A preliminary autopsy failed Saturday to determine the cause of death of a young boy whose body was found buried in sand in a public playground. "There were no obvious signs or cause of death," Albuquerque police spokesman John Walsh said Saturday after receiving the autopsy results from the state Office of the Medical Investigator. Blood and toxicology tests were still pending, as were other advanced techniques that could yield clues as to how the unidentified boy died. The body of the 3- to 5-year-old boy was discovered Friday by a woman who had taken her own children to the city's Alvarado Park and spotted a shoe sticking out of the sand.

Michelle Obama urges graduates to give back

MERCED, Calif. (AP)—First lady Michelle Obama praised graduating students at California's smallest, youngest public university for their determination to succeed, urging them to give back to their communities with the same fervor they showed to bring her to campus. In her debut as a commencement speaker on Saturday, Mrs. Obama evoked the struggles of California's founders—settlers and former slaves, trailblazers and immigrants—to encourage the 493 members of the school's senior class to use their newfound skills to lift up those around them. "Many of you may be considering leaving town with your diploma in hand, and it wouldn't be unreasonable," Mrs. Obama said before a crowd of 12,000 wilting in the blazing afternoon sun. "By using what you've learned here you can shorten the path perhaps for kids who may not see a path at all. I was once one of those kids."

Swarm of earthquakes hit Alaska's Kodiak Island

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaska's Kodiak Island is being slammed by a swarm of earthquakes—one with a magnitude of at least 5.9. Richard Buckmaster, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo., says the southeast region of the island was hit Saturday by 20 earthquakes with magnitudes of 2.6 or greater. He says the 5.9 magnitude quake is expected to be upgraded to 6.1. The quakes are centered southeast of Old Harbor, but there have been no reports that they've been felt. The earthquakes follow two light quakes that struck the same area less than an hour apart Friday.

Asia

Bombing, US strike kill at least 11 in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Bombs destroyed an Internet cafe, wrecked a bus carrying handicapped children and spread panic through Pakistan's main northwestern city on Saturday, killing at least 11 people in a day of carnage across the militancy-plagued region.

An apparent U.S. missile strike annihilated a Taliban raiding party mustering to cross into Afghanistan, officials said, while Pakistani troops claimed another 47 kills in their bid to retake the Swat Valley.

Violence is engulfing Pakistani territory along the Afghan border as American and allied forces crank up the pressure on al-Qaida and Taliban militants entrenched in the forbidding and barely governed mountains and valleys.

Washington and other nations are pouring in billions of dollars in aid and military assistance to prop up the pro-Western government in Islamabad, which on Saturday sought to allay concerns that its nuclear weapons could fall into extremist hands.

The first of two bombs to explode in Peshawar on Saturday was hidden in a car and devastated a street busy with traffic, shoppers and worshippers heading to mosques to pray.

Television images showed several vehicles burning fiercely and a stricken white-and-green bus that had been dropping handicapped children at their homes around the city.

All eight students still on board were injured, one seriously, along with the driver and an assistant, medics and police said. Four other children and seven adults were killed, and dozens more people injured, they said.

Ahmad Khan, a nine-year-old who had been on the bus, sat shaking on his mother's lap at the Lady Reading hospital as surgeons tried to save the life of a classmate.

He struggled to tell her what had happened to him, throwing up his arms to mimic the explosion, then burst into tears and buried his bandaged head in her arms.

"My child is mentally impaired, but we had hope for him and sent him to school. Now I am even more worried for his future," said his veiled mother, Gul Bibi. "How could any human being do this?"

Sri Lanka: All civilians out of war zone

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The last remaining civilians trapped by the fighting in northern Sri Lanka poured out of the war zone Sunday, clearing the way for government forces to wipe out the remaining pockets of rebel resistance, the military said.

Troops killed at least 70 rebels trying to escape the war zone Sunday, the military said. However the Tamil Tigers' top commanders remained at large. The military said the rebel leadership was likely still in the war zone and planning a mass suicide.

Thousands of Sri Lankans poured into the streets Sunday morning, dancing and setting off celebratory fireworks, after President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared victory in the country's quarter-century civil war with the separatist rebels.

"We are celebrating a victory against terrorism," said Sujeewa Anthonis, a 32-year-old street hawker.

As the fighting raged on in recent days, concerns mounted for the fate of the tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the war zone amid heavy shelling and intense fighting.

But all 50,000 civilians fled the area over the past 72 hours, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said Sunday. With journalists and aid workers barred from the war zone, it was not possible to verify the assertion.

Early Sunday, some insurgents tried to escape in six boats across a lagoon. But army troops thwarted the rebel attempt, killing a large number of rebels, said Nanayakkara.

So far, 70 bodies of rebel fighters have been recovered, he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Media, police: Acid thrown into HK crowd hurts 30

HONG KONG (AP)—Two bottles of acid were thrown into a crowd in a popular shopping district in downtown Hong Kong on Saturday, injuring 30 people, police and news reports said. It was the second such attack in five months in the neighborhood. Television footage showed firefighters washing off victims' arms and legs before sending them to hospitals for treatment. Some had holes in their clothing. Hong Kong Cable TV said people in the Mong Kok district had been splashed with acid, though police Superintendent Leung Kaming would not confirm what liquid was thrown. Samples of the liquid will be sent to a laboratory to determine its type, fire services officer So Kam-sang said.

Ex-Philippine governor survives bomb blast, 1 dead

COTABATO, Philippines (AP) — A former provincial governor in the southern Philippines survived a roadside bomb attack that killed one of his security escorts Friday, the military said. An army spokesman blamed Muslim separatist rebels, but they denied involvement. Three homemade bombs fashioned from mortar shells exploded seconds apart as former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan's convoy made its way to his farm in Shariff Aguak township, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce. Shariff Aguak councilor Iyo Kitub said Ampatuan was unharmed but a member of his security detail was killed. Ponce said two other escorts were wounded.

Myanmar junta frees Suu Kyi's doctor

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military rulers have released the personal doctor of jailed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who goes on trial Monday for allegedly violating terms of her house arrest, a family member of the doctor said. Authorities accuse Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, of harboring an American man who swam secretly across a lake to her house earlier in the month. Her personal physician, Tin Myo Win, was taken from his home by police on May 7, a day after American John William Yettaw was arrested at Suu Kyi's lakeside residence, where she has been detained for more than 13 of the last 19 years. On Sunday, a family member said the doctor had come home.

Singapore's gay community holds first-ever rally

SINGAPORE (AP)—The gay community in tightly controlled Singapore held its first-ever rally Saturday, taking advantage of looser laws on public gatherings to call for equality. About 2,500 participants wore pink clothing, played music and sang songs at a park known as Speaker's Corner, said organizer Pink Dot, which represents Singapore's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents. Singapore's government has become more tolerant toward gays and lesbians in recent years, but sodomy is still illegal, Tan said.

World

Netanyahu may endorse a Palestinian state on US trip

JERUSALEM (AP)—On the eve of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's crucial visit to Washington, his defense minister suggested Saturday the Israeli leader might endorse a Palestinian state when he meets with President Barack Obama.

That would be a significant shift for Netanyahu, who has made clear in the past that he does not think the Palestinians are ready to rule themselves. But that position has put him at odds with long-standing U.S. policy that supports Palestinian statehood as the cornerstone of Mideast peace efforts.

Senior White House officials said Obama's meeting with Netanyahu Monday is "part of his commitment that he's made since day one of the administration to pursue comprehensive peace in the Middle East, including a two-state solution between Israel and the Palestinians."

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said he thought an agreement with the Palestinians could be achieved within three years.

"I think and believe that Netanyahu will tell Obama this government is prepared to go for a political process that will result in two peoples living side by side in peace and mutual respect," Barak told Channel 2 TV.

However, he did not use the word state, leaving open other options for Netanyahu.

After the Israeli prime minister made a lightning visit to Jordan Thursday to meet with the king, a senior Jordanian government official said Netanyahu is likely to endorse a two-state solution when he meets Obama. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

When they meet, the two allies will be grappling with diverging policies on how to approach the Mideast conflict. They do not see eye-to-eye on the Palestinian issue or on the Obama administration's efforts to open a dialogue with Israel's arch foes, Syria and Iran.

Kuwaiti women win parliamentary seats

KUWAIT CITY (AP)—Official results announced on state television show that Kuwaiti women have won parliamentary elections for the first time, garnering four seats.

AP

A Kuwaiti woman casts her vote during the country's parliamentarian elections at a polling station in Salwa, Kuwait City on Saturday, May 16, 2009.

The victory is resounding in this conservative Persian Gulf country where parliaments have been men-only for almost five decades.

Women were granted political rights in 2005. They failed to make any gains in two previous elections.

According to partial official results read by judges Sunday, Massouma al-Mubarak, the country's first female Cabinet minister, became a lawmaker. She is an independent Shiite. The other winners were Westernized liberal Aseel al-Awadhi, women's rights activist Rola Dashti, and independent university teacher Salwa al-Jassar.

Gunmen free 53 from Mexican prison

MEXICO CITY (AP)—An armed gang freed more than 50 inmates from a prison in central Mexico on Saturday—including two dozen with ties to a powerful drug cartel—in a daring raid that took just five minutes, a state governor said.

The prison director, 40 guards and two police commanders who were on duty at the Cieneguillas prison in Zacatecas state were detained for questioning, according to Gov. Amalia Garcia Medina. She said footage from the security cameras inside and outside the prison indicates that guards helped the armed gang, although she did not provide details.

"It's clear to us that it was a perfectly planned operation with inside help because it lasted just five minutes and not one shot was fired," Garcia said at a news conference.

About 20 gunmen arrived at the prison before dawn in 10 vehicles and freed 53 prisoners, including at least 27 with ties to the Gulf cartel, she said.

She said the jailbreak may have been revenge for the recent arrests of drug gang members and the seizure of guns and narcotics by the Zacatecas state police.

Nigerian military rescues 10 hostages

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—The Nigerian military rescued 10 hostages from militants in the southern oil region and destroyed the camp where the victims were being held, a private security official said Saturday.

The hostages freed Friday included six Filipinos among 15 kidnapped this week from an oil industry service ship amid a surge of fighting between militants and government troops, the official said.

Four Nigerians were also rescued and the camp run by militant leader Government Tompolo was destroyed, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to company prohibitions on dealings with the media.

Government officials weren't immediately available for comment on the report and it was not clear what happened to the other Filipino hostages.

Militants said one Filipino was killed Friday in fighting that was the worst violence in months, but no other groups have confirmed the death.

Health & Fitness

Study: Ginger capsules ease chemotherapy nausea

Ginger has long been used as a folk remedy for soothing tummyaches.

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

Ginger, long used as a folk remedy for soothing tummyaches, helped tame one of the most dreaded side effects of cancer treatment—nausea from chemotherapy, the first large study to test the herb for this has found.

People who started taking ginger capsules several days before a chemo infusion had fewer and less severe bouts of nausea afterward than others who were given dummy capsules, the federally funded study found.

"We were slightly beside ourselves" to see how much it helped, said study leader Julie Ryan of the University of Rochester in New York.

Results were released Thursday by the American Society of Clinical Oncology and will be presented at the group's annual meeting later this month.

But don't reach for the ginger ale. Many sodas and cookies contain only flavoring—not real ginger, Ryan said. Her study tested a drug-like ginger root extract, and it's not known if people could get the same benefits from ginger teas or the powdered ginger sold as a spice.

Still, ginger capsules may offer a cheap, simple way to fight nausea, which is far more than just a quality-of-life issue, doctors say. Some cancer patients cut treatment short or refuse chemo altogether because of nausea, hurting their chances of beating the disease.

Medicines do a good job of curbing vomiting, but nearly three-fourths of chemo patients still suffer nausea, which can sometimes be worse, Ryan said.

ON THE NET
■ Oncology group: http://www.asco.org
■ Cancer Society advice: http://tinyurl.com/ybv9dn

"Patients ask all the time, 'What else can I do?'" said Dr. Richard Schilsky, a cancer specialist at the University of Chicago and president of the oncology society.

Ginger has long been touted for stomach upsets, ranging from motion sickness to morning sickness during pregnancy. Studies have had mixed results.

The new one used a specially formulated gelcap containing concentrated, purified ginger root extract made by Aphios Corp. of Woburn, Mass.

The study involved 644 patients from cancer centers around the nation who had suffered nausea in a previous round of chemotherapy. Two-thirds had breast cancer and the rest, other forms of the disease. They were placed in four groups and given one of three doses of ginger (the equivalent of one-half, 1 or 1 1/2 grams of ginger per day) or dummy capsules in addition to standard anti-sickness medicines.

Patients took the capsules for six days, beginning three days before chemo treatment. They rated their nausea symptoms on a seven-point scale on the first day of each of three treatments.

All of the ginger doses significantly reduced nausea, and the middle and lowest doses gave the best results. Patients taking ginger scored their nausea an average of two or more points lower on the nausea scale, about a 40 percent improvement over their previous chemo treatments without ginger, Ryan said. Those given dummy pills reported hardly any difference.

Timing may have been key to success: An earlier study found ginger did no good when patients waited until the day of treatment to start taking it. In the new study, researchers wanted to see if having ginger in the system ahead of time would help.

"It was just a different way of thinking to treat nausea, to try and pre-empt it," Ryan said.

Ginger caused no side effects in the new study, but doctors say people should talk with their doctors before trying it because it can interfere with blood clotting, especially during cancer treatment or if taken with the blood thinner Coumadin or other commonly used medicines. It's also a risk for people having surgery, the American Cancer Society warns.

Free Lipitor, Viagra, 70 other drugs for jobless

The recession might be a little less painful for some Americans, who won't lose their prescription medications if they lose their jobs.

Pfizer Inc. said Thursday it will give away more than 70 of its most widely prescribed drugs, including Lipitor and Viagra, for up to a year to people who have lost jobs since Jan. 1 and have been taking the drug for three months or more. The announcement comes as the unemployment rate topped 8.9 percent in April.

Pfizer stands to benefit, too - by keeping its customers, and with a tax write-off that will cover much of the cost of the donations. The move also buys the world's largest drugmaker some good will as Washington looks to overhaul the health care system.

"Everybody knows now a neighbor, a relative who has lost their job and is losing their insurance. People are definitely hurting out there," Dr. Jorge Puente, Pfizer's head of pharmaceuticals outside the U.S. and Europe, told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Wednesday. "Our aim is to help people bridge this point."

The 70-plus drugs covered in the program include several diabetes drugs and some of Pfizer's top money makers, from cholesterol fighter Lipitor and painkiller Celebrex to fibromyalgia treatment Lyrica and Viagra for impotence. Also included are some antibiotics, antidepressants, heart medications, contraceptives and smoking cessation products. Cheaper generic versions are available for most of the drugs.

The program will likely help prevent patients from switching to cheaper brands or generics through the worst of the recession and could help retain those taking top-seller Lipitor, which will begin competing with generic versions next year.

The giveaway was heralded by some as a brilliant marketing move that will generate low-cost publicity, build consumer loyalty and keep inventory from piling up.

"What are the alternatives? To slow down manufacturing operations?" asked WBB Securities analyst Steve Brozak. "This is going to go down as a Harvard Business School textbook example of what to do with product when you can't sell it." Pfizer, among other drugmakers, has seen sales fall for many drugs as people cut spending, even for essentials such as health care.

The 10 best-selling drugs included in the program accounted for more than $26 billion, or 64 percent, of Pfizer's total sales last year. Officials for New York-based Pfizer said they don't know how much the program will cost and haven't put a cap on spending for it. ***(AP)***

A bitter pill

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Ladies: Are you pumping iron but not seeing much muscle gain? Your birth control pills might be partly to blame.

A recent study included 73 women ages 18 to 31 who were divided into two groups—one taking oral contraceptives and one not taking them. Each group completed 10 weeks of resistance training supervised by exercise physiologists.. Before and after training, blood samples were taken to determine levels of anabolic and catabolic hormone levels. Anabolic hormones influence muscle growth, while catabolic hormones, such as cortisol, can destroy muscle fibers.

Women not taking birth control pills added more than 60 percent more muscle mass than women who were taking the drugs. Also, fasting levels of anabolic hormones were lower and plasma concentrations of cortisol were higher in the contraceptive group. However, gains in strength and arm and leg circumferences were about the same in both groups.

The study was presented recently at the annual meeting of the American Physiological Society.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Taking birth control pills may stymie muscle gain.

To lose weight, do the math

By JEANNINE STEIN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

To lose weight, calculate the calories you need to consume based on your age and gender—then factor in how many you actually burn.

It isn't difficult, requiring little more than a calculator. The equations produce numbers that fit the population average, so consider them a starting point.

The simplest way to calculate calorie needs is to multiply current weight by 11 through 15, which gives a range of calories needed to maintain that weight.

So a 150-pound woman who wants to stay at that weight would need to eat 1,650 to 2,250 calories. Why the difference? If her activity level is high (exercising vigorously every day), she can eat more because she's burning more. If she wants to lose weight, she's going to have to cut calories.

Because a pound of fat equals about 3,500 calories, cutting 500 calories a day will mean one pound lost in a week, a reasonable amount. But eating less isn't the only way to slim down. To cut 500 calories a day, you also can cut calories by 250 and do a workout that burns 250 calories.

A more accurate calorie assessment can be done using the Harris Benedict Equation, developed in 1919, which starts with basal metabolic rate to calculate calories needed to maintain weight.

What the equation doesn't take into consideration is lean muscle mass. Someone with a lot of muscle and little body fat will need more calories, and those with higher body fat will need less. As fitness levels increase, so does BMR.

Kara Mohr, co-owner of a Louisville, Ky.-based nutrition and fitness facility, says that since these numbers are based on averages, some calorie tweaking might be necessary to find the right formula. If weight doesn't drop after a few weeks, cut the calories, increase the exercise or both. Always hungry? Add calories or back off on the workouts.

Calorie counts for various foods can be found online at sites such as CalorieKing.com and TheCalorieCounter.com, and calories burned via various activities can be found at CaloriesPerHour.com and NutriStrategy.com.

Life & Style

Boyish Norwegian wins Eurovision Song Contest

MOSCOW (AP)—A boyish, fiddle-wielding Norwegian singer won the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow on Saturday night, his bouncy ditty the highlight of the musical bonanza studded with pyrotechnic artistry and stunning electronic visuals on an epic scale.

Twenty-five performers from across Europe competed in Moscow in a musical bonanza that is one of the most watched annual television events in the world, despite being written off by some as European kitsch.

"Fairytale," penned and performed by 23-year-old fiddler Alexander Rybak, blew away competition from Iceland's Yohanna, who finished second, and Azerbaijan's AySel & Arash, who was third, with a folksy melody to the accompaniment of an acrobatic dance routine and two blonde female support singers.

The elfin-faced Rybak, the winning graduate of a Norwegian television talent show in 2006, accrued the most points in Eurovision's 53-year history, outstripping Finland's Lordi in 2006.

"Thank you so much, Russia. You are just great, thank you," an emotional Rybak, said, speaking in Russian from the stage after the result was announced. "You are the greatest public in the world," he proclaimed, before launching into a repeat performance of the winning entry.

Russia was trying to capitalize on the prestigious event to showcase the nation's hospitality and growing role in modern society, but those efforts were undermined several hours earlier when riot police attacked gay pride rallies in the capital.

Gay rights activists sought to use the international competition to draw attention to what they call widespread discrimination against homosexuals in Russia. No injuries were reported.

Police hauled away around 40 demonstrators, including British-based activist Peter Tatchell and American activist Andy Thayer of Chicago, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network.

"Today's arrests go against the principles of Eurovision, which are about peace, harmony, cooperation and unity between all the peoples in Europe," Tatchell told The Associated Press after being released by police.

Rybak criticized the protesters for choosing the same day as the contest—which has a large following in European gay communities—to vent their frustrations.

"I think it is a little bit sad that they chose to have (the protests) today. ... They were spending all their energy on that parade, while the biggest gay parade in the world was tonight" at Eurovision, Rybak said

Minsk-born Rybak, who left Belarus when he was four years old with his musician parents, earned the maximum number of points from several of the participating former Soviet satellite countries.

His performance was greeted by rapturous applause from the spectators thronging the Olimpiisky Sports Complex in central Moscow. The crowd heard a wide array of songs, ranging from traditional cheesy pop to tear-jerking ballads and ear-piercing operatic melodies.

AP

Norway's Alexander Rybak holds the trophy after winning the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest at the Olympic Stadium in Moscow, Russia, early Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Norway last won the competition in 1995 and as winner will host the show next year.

Russia was pinning its hopes on "Mamo," an overwrought ballad composed by a Georgian songwriter and partially performed in Ukrainian by a Ukrainian-born artist Anastasia Prikhodko, but she could only muster 11th place.

U.S. burlesque artiste Dita Von Teese, ex-wife of rocker Marilyn Manson, spiced up Germany's act by straddling a shiny lip-shaped black plastic sofa. In an apparent concession to the organizers' sensibilities, Von Teese toned down her initially planned performance, which involved her stripping off her top down to just sparkly nipple warmers.

The winner of the competition was picked by a combination of telephone voting and official juries from national broadcasters in the 42 nations that originally took part.

Britain had been billed as a favorite for the contest, but its entry, singer Jade, could only manage fifth place, despite composer Andrew Lloyd Webber writing her song.

DeGeneres, Connick salute Tulane graduates

AP

Ellen DeGeneres, center, is joined by Harry Connick, Jr., left, and Tulane President Scott Cowan at the Tulane University graduation exercises at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Saturday, May 16, 2009.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and actor-musician Harry Connick Jr. returned Saturday to their hometown of New Orleans to cheer on Tulane University's graduating "Katrina Class"—the students displaced by Hurricane Katrina nearly four years ago.

"Look at you," DeGeneres told the 2,000-plus graduates who received diplomas at the Louisiana Superdome. "Usually when you're wearing a robe at 10 in the morning it means you've given up."

The ceremony included a short film with images of Katrina's destruction and interviews with students. Clarinetist Michael White and his jazz band performed "Just a Closer Walk With Thee," and jazz singer Wanda Rouzan performed "Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans?"

But as in 2006, when she made a surprise appearance at the Tulane's first commencement ceremony after Katrina, it was DeGeneres who stole the show. She had the crowd laughing and dancing as she strutted through the aisles as she does on her television talk show, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

In 2006, former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton were delivering Tulane's commencement address when DeGeneres walked on stage wearing a white terrycloth bathrobe because, she deadpanned, she was told everyone would be wearing a robe.

Connick addressed the audience only briefly after he was given an honorary degree for his work in the city's recovery.

"You are my heroes," he told the graduates.

Tulane President Scott Cowen presented DeGeneres with the Tulane University President's Medal for her work to raise money and awareness for New Orleans after Katrina.

Joint Death Anniversary

WE THE FAMILY OF THE LATE †EMERY JOSEPH (EJ) I/†PEDRO DLC PANGELINAN AND †AGUSTINA Q. INOS HUMBLY REQUEST FAMILIES, RELATIVES, AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US IN PRAYERS AS WE COMMEMORATE THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVEDS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE.

EJ 1ST | PEDRO 5TH | AGUSTINA 20TH

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATIONS FOLLOWED BY HOLY ROSARY AT ST. JUDE CHURCH AS FOLLOWS:

Monday to Friday, May 18-22, 2009	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 23, 2009	7:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 24, 2009	6:00, 8:00, & 10:00 a. m.
Monday, May 25, 2009	6:00 p.m.

ON THE FINAL DAY, TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009, HOLY ROSARY WILL BE RECITED AT ST. JUDE CHURCH AT 5:15 P.M., FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 6:00 P.M. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT THE RESIDENCE OF MS. JUDY INOS PANGELINAN.

YOUR PRESENCE AND PRAYERS IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

JUDY INOS PANGELINAN & FAMILY
MADELAINE M. PANGELINAN & SONS
THOMAS M & LAURA INOS MANGLONA & FAMILY
JUAN Q & JULIE R. INOS & FAMILY

Bullock honored by La. school for Katrina charity

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Actress Sandra Bullock was inducted Friday into a New Orleans high school's "Hall of Fame" after donating tens of thousands toward rebuilding the public school heavily flooded by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Bullock took the auditorium stage at Warren Easton High School to a standing ovation from about 300 people. She said she couldn't take all the credit for renovations after the school suffered $4 million in damages from nearly 10 feet of floodwater from the storm.

"I just write the checks," the actress said, adding she "rides the coattails of people who do amazing things."

Bullock's portrait—drawn in crayon by her 5-year-old stepdaughter Sunny—was added to a school hallway alongside dozens of portraits of alumni who went on to become famous musicians, sports stars, judges and doctors.

The exact amount of her donation hasn't been made public. But Bullock called it "the best investment I ever made."

In an interview, Bullock said she was "embarrassed" by the federal government's slow response after Katrina and felt compelled to help however she could.

Her donation helped fund scholarships, new band uniforms and renovations of the school auditorium. She said providing for new band uniforms was important because of New Orleans' rich music history. School graduates include jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain, also in the hall of fame.

"It's not just reading, writing and arithmetic," she said. "Where's the joy in life? In New Orleans, it's in music."

Bullock has visited the school many times since Katrina. Warren Easton, a predominantly black inner city school, dates its origins to 1844 as one of Louisiana's oldest public schools.

Bullock was joined Friday by her husband, celebrity motorcycle builder Jesse James, and James' daughter Sunny.

Besides charity work, Bullock has been busy with her movie career. Her romantic comedy "The Proposal," co-starring Ryan Reynolds, is due in theaters in June.

She is producing and starring in the comedy "All About Steve," which is expected to be released later this year. And she is currently filming the drama "The Blind Side" in Atlanta.

AP

Actress Sandra Bullock, center, poses with some of the college scholarship recipients before being inducted into the Warren Easton High School Hall of Fame for her help rebuilding the school after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, Friday, May 15, 2009.

Victoria Gotti fighting foreclosure of NY home

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP)—Growing up Gotti never included the threat of foreclosure - until now.

That's just what Victoria Gotti, daughter of the "Dapper Don," faces as the latest member of the infamous family to be called into court.

Deceased mob boss John Gotti earned the name "Teflon Don" after a series of acquittals before being sentenced to life in 1992 for racketeering and six killings. He died in prison in 2002.

There were also Victoria Gotti's uncles, who went to prison for various mob-related offenses. And more recently her brother, John "Junior" Gotti, is battling his latest racketeering indictment in a federal courtroom in Manhattan.

Now, Victoria Gotti is in another court, fighting the threat of foreclosure on her Long Island mansion, the same house used in the "Growing Up Gotti" reality show.

"I'm never going to lose the house—trust me," the 46-year-old author-turned-reality TV star told reporters this week after a federal court hearing.

The opulent estate in Old Westbury features two-story columns fronted by a large stone driveway and fountain. It was featured on the short-lived reality show featuring the curvy blonde and her three sons.

Now, an appeals court has ruled that JP Morgan Chase Bank should be allowed to seize the property because of nonpayment of a $700,000 loan.

Gotti blames her former husband, Carmine Agnello, with taking out the loan with the house as collateral without her knowledge. She says he left her holding the debt when he transferred his share of the estate to her in 2005. The couple divorced in 2003.

AP

In this Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2006 file photo, Victoria Gotti exits Manhattan federal court after the third trial of her brother John Gotti Jr. ended in a mistrial, in New York.

Gotti told a judge she intends to satisfy the debt if Agnello completes a planned $10 million property-forfeiture settlement with federal prosecutors from his own 2001 racketeering conviction. Gotti claims she is entitled to a portion of the proceeds from that settlement by virtue of her $7 million divorce settlement with Agnello.

But there is one problem: Agnello's 85-year-old mother, Marie. She apparently has ownership interests in three of the properties, and her permission is required for the sales to go through.

Agnello's lawyer, Scott Leemon, asked for time to sort out the mother's position and allow to hire her own lawyer.

The judge has given Marie Agnello until Wednesday to state any objection to the deal.

"I think we need to get this case resolved right away," U.S. Magistrate Robert Levy said.

"The only way I'm leaving is selling it," said Gotti, who has had the house on the market for several years. The asking price is over $3 million.

Victoria Gotti's legal skirmish comes only days after her mother, also named Victoria, made headlines by interrupting a hearing on her son's racketeering case by telling a federal judge that the government is trying to kill him before he even gets to trial.

"Why don't you just hang him now!" Victoria Gotti shouted from the spectator section of a room in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Outside court she passed out copies of a lie detector test in which the younger Victoria Gotti said she never slept with the turncoat, John Alite, a Gambino organized crime family associate.

The elder Gotti also told reporters that the government was trying to ruin her daughter's reputation in pursuit of a conviction.

"This trial is rigged before he sets foot in it," she said.

Longoria, Bill Clinton attend Austrian AIDS gala

VIENNA (AP)—"Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria Parker, former U.S. President Bill Clinton and singer Katy Perry attended a flamboyant Austrian charity gala Saturday dedicated to raising money for people with HIV and AIDS.

Other celebrities spotted at the Life Ball were actress Fran Drescher, former Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson and model Amber Valletta.

The annual bash, held in and around Vienna's neo-gothic city hall, each year draws thousands of revelers in quirky and kinky costumes—and sometimes nothing more than G-strings and glitter.

Saturday's partygoers did their best not to disappoint.

As crowds craned their necks to catch a glimpse, a couple covered in blue body paint kissed for photographers. Another duo, also scantily clad, resembled silver sea urchins.

The party kicked off with an extravagant outdoor opening ceremony that combined music and dance segments with pleas to stay focused on fighting the devastating disease.

Longoria Parker, wearing a strapless gown, told the crowd that in many parts of Asia only a fraction of HIV positive children who need treatment actually receive it.

"There's a terrible shortage of doctors and other health care workers who are trained to provide the proper treatment and care for those children," said Longoria Parker, a representative of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of HIV/AIDS research.

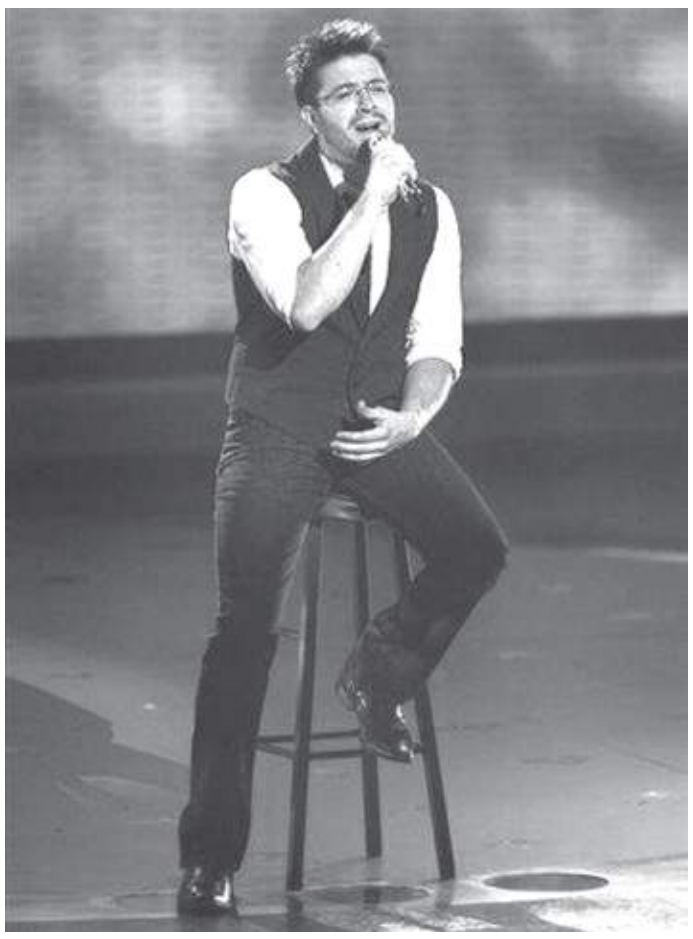
Clinton, in a brief speech, urged people not to forget the less fortunate.

"We know we live in an interdependent world where we cannot separate our fates from those a long way away," he said. "Tonight, you are not just enjoying an extraordinary extravaganza, you are helping children and women and men to live in far away places who would have no money, no medicine, no hope."

AP

Actress Amber Valletta, designer Patricia Field, Life Ball organizer Gery Keszler and actress Eva Longoria, from left, pose for photographers at a news conference in Vienna, Saturday, May 16, 2009.

Discovery World to contribute to Gokey's charity



AP

In this photo released by FOX, Danny Gokey performs in front of the judges on American Idol on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 in Los Angeles.

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Discovery World museum in Milwaukee plans to donate part of the proceeds from this weekend's attendance to the charity started by "American Idol" finalist Danny Gokey.

The Milwaukee native was among the top three "American Idol" finalists before being voted off Wednesday. He tried out for the show four weeks after his wife, Sophia, died following surgery for a heart condition.

Gokey started Sophia's Heart Foundation after she died.

Discovery World President Joel Brennan says the museum and guests want to thank Gokey for the positive attention he's brought to the community.

The museum will donate $1 for every general admission ticket sold Saturday and Sunday.

'Farrah's Story' draws nearly 9 million viewers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC says an estimated 8.9 million people watched a documentary about Farrah Fawcett's battle against cancer.

The film, "Farrah's Story," aired Friday on NBC, detailing the former "Charlie's Angels" treatment and hopes for recovery.

The 62-year-old Fawcett was diagnosed in 2006 with anal cancer that has since spread to her liver.

According to preliminary ratings released Saturday, "Farrah's Story" was NBC's most-watched program in its Friday night time slot in more than a year, excluding the Olympics.

But it was edged out by CBS' airing of the season finale of "Numb3rs." The crime drama drew an estimated 9.6 million viewers Friday.

AP

In this Aug. 29, 2004 file photo, actress Farrah Fawcett arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami.

New America Ferrera film looks at the effects of war

MEXICO CITY (AP)—"Ugly Betty" star America Ferrera is hoping her new film will inspire Americans to address the struggles soldiers face after they come home from Iraq or Afghanistan.

The 25-year-old is starring and producing "The Dry Land," which follows a young man's difficulties readapting to small town life following a tour of duty.

Ferrera says the United States "should have an honest discussion about the effects that war has on our society, on the men who come back, on the families that are broken from it."

She said Friday in a phone interview she hopes the film ignites such discussion.

Ryan O'Nan and Melisa Leo also star in the movie, which was written and directed by Ferrera's beau, Ryan Piers Williams.

AP

Actress America Ferrera arrives at the 22nd Annual Kids' Choice Awards in this Saturday, March 28, 2009 file photo taken in Los Angeles.

Jacques Audiard goes to prison for 'A Prophet'

CANNES, France (AP)—It's set in a prison, amid petty crooks, drug dealers and mobsters. But Jacques Audiard's new film was inspired by Hollywood westerns, not gritty police thrillers.

The French filmmaker said Saturday he wanted his penitentiary drama "A Prophet" to be "like 'Liberty Valance' without John Wayne."

"I really wanted to make a genre film ... and to have a big image, rather like a western," said Audiard. "That was my basic idea."

"A Prophet" got a warm reception from journalists at its first Cannes screening and could emerge as a solid contender for key festival prizes.

Its outsider hero is Malik (a riveting Tahar Rahim), a young Frenchman of North African origin who is sent to prison and forced to find a path between its rival gangs, including Muslim inmates and Corsican gangsters.

Tense, brutal and occasionally tender, the film shows Malik's education on the rules of prison life, which turn out to be not so different from those outside.

"Inside and out are both the same thing, and what he gets inside prison he uses afterwards outside," said Audiard, 57, who won acclaim for his last feature, 2005's "The Beat That My Heart Skipped."

Gin Blossoms to headline party for Delta employees

ATLANTA (AP)—Delta Air Lines Inc. employees, retirees and their families may get a trip down "Allison Road" at a company party headlined by the rock band Gin Blossoms.

The group, which had several hits in the 1990s, is scheduled to perform at a private party that the world's biggest airline operator is holding at its Atlanta headquarters Saturday to thank workers for their efforts during difficult financial times.

Most of the costs for the event, which will also include a wine presentation and a visit by Atlanta Braves outfielder Jeff Francoeur, are being picked up by Delta's vendor partners, Chief Executive Richard Anderson said in a recorded message to employees Thursday night.

The band's Web site confirms it is set for a private performance in Atlanta that day.

The Gin Blossoms rose from Tempe, Ariz., nightclubs in the early 1990s to platinum-selling album success before disbanding in 1997. The band reunited several years later.

The group's hits include "Hey Jealousy," "Found Out about You" and "Allison Road."

Delta will host another party for employees in Minneapolis on May 30. Delta acquired Eagan, Minn.-based Northwest Airlines last October.

Man's annual birthday wish is for no more chocolate cake

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: It's traditional in my family to celebrate birthdays with other family members. This may seem trivial, but I have an issue with the cake. Ever since I was a child, my mom has made a chocolate cake with chocolate frosting for my birthday. The problem is, I don't like chocolate!

I have told this to Mom since I was a kid, but my comments seem to have been forgotten by the time the next birthday rolls around. Now that I'm older, I'm wondering if it's better to be gracious about it and just let it go. I never eat any of it and haven't in more than a decade, but nobody seems to notice.

I find it somewhat annoying to be served a birthday cake I don't even like. I try to put in perspective that it's a gift and I should be gracious for receiving it—but it gets old. Any suggestions?

VANILLA FELLA, COLUMBIA, MO.

DEAR VANILLA FELLA: You appear to be the odd man out in a family of chocoholics. Next year, tell your mother not to "bother" baking because YOU'RE bringing the cake.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 16-year-old guy who has hit a road bump in life. My parents divorced when I was 12 and are still fighting. I get involved in their fights because I feel I have to, but it stresses me out.

I live full-time with Mom because Dad and I fight too much. Mom and I are also at odds nonstop. She has had several different boyfriends since the divorce. Three of them have moved into our house.

Mom and I have different opinions about her present boyfriend, who she calls her "fiance." He's the biggest reason we fight. Mom has told me her kids come first and if I really don't like him she'll ask him to leave, but I don't want her to do it if she's truly happy with him.

What should I do? Mom deserves to be happy, but I don't think this man is best for her. Please help.

COLORADO TEEN

DEAR TEEN: Something is wrong when a person's front door becomes a revolving door, and whether this "engagement" will last is debatable. Your mother appears to be desperate for a companion, and someone who has put her happiness above common sense or responsibility to her children. You should never have been placed in the position of feeling you "have" to be involved in your parents' dysfunctional relationship—and the fact that you are stressed is understandable.

If there is counseling available through your school, I am urging you to talk to a teacher, counselor or the principal and ask for some. It is important for your future that you keep your grades up without the kinds of distractions you're experiencing. Believe me, you have my sympathy.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper thing to do when one sits on a squeaky seat and the seat makes a noise like someone has passed gas? My first instinct is not to call attention to it. Then again, as they say, "Silence implies guilt." My second impulse is to make light of it, but I'm afraid in certain formal situations it would paint me as immature. Your advice?

IT WASN'T ME IN WILMINGTON, DEL.

DEAR WASN'T ME: In formal situations, everyone should pretend it never happened and the conversation should proceed as it normally would. However, in casual company it is acceptable to say, "That was the seat, not the seat that is on it."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

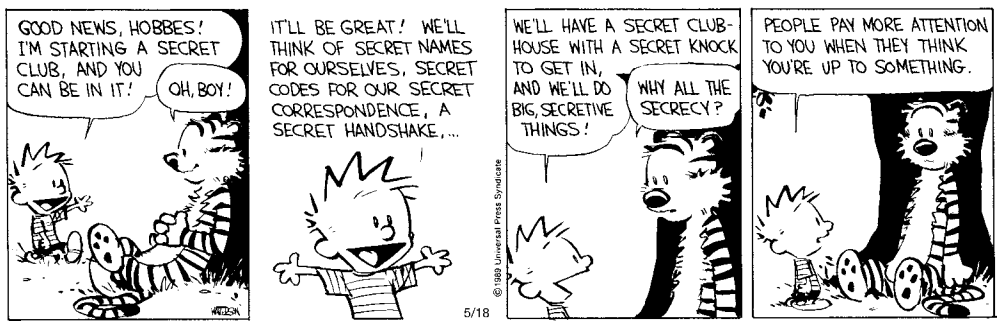
■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GOOD NEWS, HOBBES! I'M STARTING A SECRET CLUB, AND YOU CAN BE IN IT!
OH, BOY!
IT'LL BE GREAT! WE'LL THINK OF SECRET NAMES FOR OURSELVES, SECRET CODES FOR OUR SECRET CORRESPONDENCE, A SECRET HANDSHAKE, ...
WE'LL HAVE A SECRET CLUB-HOUSE WITH A SECRET KNOCK TO GET IN, AND WE'LL DO BIG, SECRETIVE THINGS!
WHY ALL THE SECRECY?
PEOPLE PAY MORE ATTENTION TO YOU WHEN THEY THINK YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING.
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5/18

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT A GREAT DAY!
AH, NATURE!
ZZZZZZ
I SWALLOWED A BEE!
NATURE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR
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DAVIS 5-18

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THIS IMAGINARY DOG WALKING IS HARDER THAN IT SOUNDS.
PUPPIES SURE ARE A LOT OF WORK.
www.gocomics.com
SHOULD WE TELL MOM AND DAD THAT WE'VE RECONSIDERED?
YES.
LET'S JUST SAY THE DOG BROKE OFF THE LEASH AND RAN AWAY.
THAT SOUNDS BELIEVABLE.
5-18
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OR HOW 'BOUT WE MET A LEPRECHAUN WHO PROMISED HIM A GOOD HOME?
OOO! THAT SOUNDS BELIEVABLE AND THEY WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE DOG!
HARROLD

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

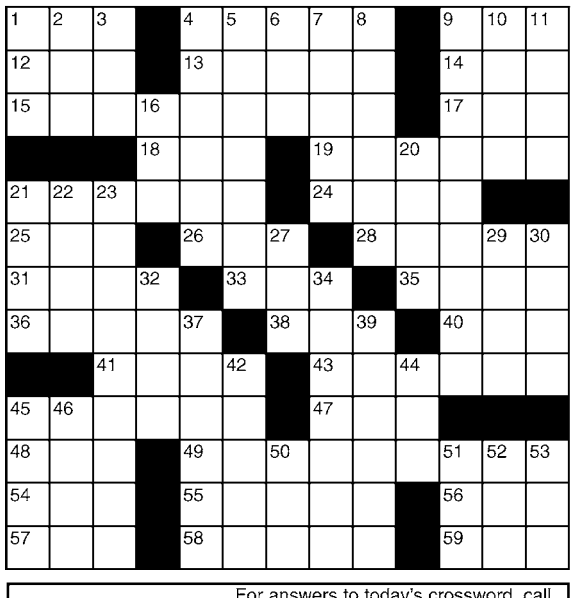
ACROSS
1 Amazement, plus
4 Glistened
9 Insulation material (Abbr.)
12 That girl
13 Melodic and harmonic
14 Golf ball's position
15 Tinseltown
17 Help
18 Having a bug
19 Villain, slangily
21 Asian capital
24 "— It Romantic?"
25 Sprite
26 Lorne Michaels' brainchild, for short
28 Quarrels
31 Union payments
33 Obtained
35 Any time now
36 Refine metal
38 "Holy cow!"
40 Kimono sash
41 Bad witness
43 In the thick of
45 Hallux
47 Couric's network
48 Fuss
49 Glenn Miller classic
54 Virgo neighbor
55 Waste conduit
56 Pair
57 Pop
58 Crocodile —
59 Blunder

DOWN
1 Bonfire residue
2 Personal question
3 Conger, for one
4 Fashions
5 Coyotes' din
6 Yoko of music
7 Judd or Campbell
8 Firstborn
9 Greenhouse buy
10 Henry —
11 Relinquish
16 Back talk
20 Blackbirds
21 Kennedy and Koppel
22 Grad
23 James Brown hit
27 Journal
29 Watch chains
30 Fit of peevishness
32 Narrow cut
34 Head of the class?
37 Follower of Lao-tzu
39 Hearth remains
42 Actress Zellweger
44 Doctrine
45 Hairless
46 Notion
50 Airline initials
51 Praiseful verse
52 "— Town"
53 "Le Coq —"

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	O	E	■	B	L	O	B	■	A	D	A	M
L	A	W	■	I	O	T	A	■	L	I	M	A
A	T	E	■	S	O	I	L	■	E	V	E	N
T	H	R	E	E	S	C	O	M	P	A	N	Y
■	■	■	A	C	E	■	N	I	H	■	■	■
H	E	A	R	T	■	F	E	Z	■	F	U	R
M	A	I	N	■	J	A	Y	■	S	A	F	E
M	U	M	■	B	O	X	■	S	Y	N	O	D
■	■	■	A	S	H	■	S	U	N	■	■	■
C	O	M	P	A	N	Y	P	I	C	N	I	C
A	T	O	P	■	S	O	R	T	■	E	R	E
I	T	L	L	■	O	R	E	O	■	S	O	N
N	O	D	E	■	N	E	E	R	■	T	N	T

Saturday's answer 5-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina Fey, 39; Chow Yun-Fat, 54; George Strait, 57; Robert Morse, 78

Happy Birthday: Look ahead with optimism. This year is about timing and quality, not quantity. Don't be tempted by what others do or say. Avoid risks and people enticing you to do something you know you should avoid. In the end, your reward for dedication and hard work will be monetary. Your numbers are 2, 9, 13, 27, 35, 37, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can solve any problem you face by taking a detour and inventing a new way to do what's being asked of you. Hold on to every precious moment you have with family, friends, children or a lover. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Help is on the way if you are willing to let others in on the dilemma you are facing. Change will come from a unique or totally unexpected place. Using your knowledge will demonstrate to people the skills you possess. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't jump too quickly into anything with the potential to backfire. Stick to what's worked in the past and refuse to let your emotions get the better of you. Someone is likely to bait you into an argument. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do something that interests you, even if you are a little skeptical. You will discover a way to help someone you care about by putting yourself on the line and doing things a little differently. Don't let anyone push you into a responsibility that isn't yours. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A financial problem will arise if you haven't been watching your spending habits. Someone may call in a debt that will leave you strapped for cash. A personal connection to someone you care for will be elevated to new heights. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have plenty to question regarding your partnerships and how to handle the people you love most. You cannot let your personal life cause you to miss out on a great professional opportunity. It's up to you to choose your path. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The emphasis will be put on how you handle the tasks you are given. Don't be overly sensitive or cause a fuss because you are unsure. There is power in networking and partnering with someone who can pick up the slack and help you do a bang-up job. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): An emotional connection to someone will take a positive turn. Loyalty has to be based on conduct and motives. If someone isn't fair with you, don't feel you owe this person. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't think you can get away with not abiding by the rules. You will be caught in a trap that you can't get out of if you play with someone's emotions. Exaggeration may spice things up but it can also make you look bad. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A relationship you are in will pose a problem if you cannot designate enough of your time to please this person. An inheritance or debt owed will put extra cash in your pocket. Being responsible will set you apart from others. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep a watchful eye on the people you are dealing with. Taking a strong position will show your courage and reliability. You mustn't let someone defeat you because you haven't done your research. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be emotional and sensitive. Stick to your original plans if you want to keep some sort of rhythm to your day. If you go too far off the beaten track, you will have a hard time getting back to what's important. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable but not always accommodating. You stick to your beliefs and are strong-willed. You are a loyal friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	6	8		7		3	
1					6			4
		9				6		8
2	7			8				5
			4	9	2			
9				7			2	3
3		5				1		
4			5					6
	6		1		3	5	9	

Difficulty Level ★ 5/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	5	6	4	9	1	2	3
4	6	1	8	2	3	9	5	7
9	3	2	7	5	1	4	8	6
6	9	8	3	7	5	2	1	4
3	1	4	9	6	2	5	7	8
5	2	7	4	1	8	3	6	9
8	5	3	2	9	7	6	4	1
2	4	9	1	8	6	7	3	5
1	7	6	5	3	4	8	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PICK UP A NEWSPAPER TODAY! **Solution: 9 letters**

R	P	A	G	E	S	R	E	P	O	R	T	S	S	E
E	O	U	N	G	N	I	T	S	E	R	E	T	N	I
H	S	T	Z	N	O	O	T	R	A	C	N	T	M	S
T	E	Y	I	Z	E	W	S	S	T	I	E	E	U	E
A	P	L	K	D	L	W	S	I	R	R	D	U	L	C
E	O	I	A	E	E	E	O	P	T	I	K	P	O	R
W	C	A	D	I	E	N	S	A	A	O	R	V	C	U
L	S	D	V	T	S	W	I	T	D	E	E	D	T	O
E	O	E	I	A	E	N	N	U	S	R	O	Y	U	S
T	R	A	C	N	M	E	S	S	N	O	P	U	O	C
T	O	L	E	E	R	N	E	S	F	O	S	D	Y	Y
E	H	S	N	S	T	O	R	E	C	T	P	A	A	R
R	Y	T	I	C	D	A	T	W	R	I	T	E	L	O
S	C	I	M	O	C	E	S	A	E	L	E	R	D	T
D	E	T	A	C	I	D	N	Y	S	T	R	O	P	S

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Last Saturday's Answer: Collapse

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USSP 16th Year Anniversary!
Island Style Jams
Guest singers: Guam, Palau, Chuuk, and Pohnpei
May 29th & May 30th, 2009

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WHATZIT Solution:
A wolf in sheep's clothing

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Attorney at Law
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Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Appearing for Petitioner
BENIGNO O. SABLAN

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF GAUDENCIA SABLAN, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0136 NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that BENIGNO O. SABLAN, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Gaudencia Sablan, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The Attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for June 9, 2009, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 pm. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

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Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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TV, tables, clothes, home appliances, kitchenware, curtains, toys, books, bags, shoes, and more! Call 2342220. From May 16-25, 2009.

BAR FOR SALE

Club Billy Bones
Located in Garapan
• Complete turnkey opportunity
• Serious inquiries only
Contact Mary @ 287-2499

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Accountant immediately
Send resume to:
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4-6 years experience or CPA
I.R. or U.S. citizen in preferred.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
JVA# 09-013

OPENING DATE: **May 4, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **May 19, 2009**
The NMI Retirement Fund has the following positions are available:

	Starting Salary Range
Benefits Analyst III	$22,576.96 – $38,601.36 (Pay Level 30)
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Filly Rachel Alexandra wins Preakness

BALTIMORE (AP)—Girls rule! The best 3-year-old in the land just happens to be a filly named Rachel Alexandra.

Jockey Calvin Borel all but guaranteed victory in the Preakness Stakes and, boy, did she deliver, becoming the first filly in 85 years to win the second leg of the Triple Crown.

A rangy bay—as big as most of the horses she beat—Rachel Alexandra shot to the front Saturday and wasn't seriously challenged until a late close by Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird.

By beating him she ended any chance that thoroughbred racing would have a Triple Crown winner this season. Affirmed was the last Triple Crown winner in 1978.

Rachel Alexandra led by a head at the quarter and half-mile poles. She stretched it to a half-length at the three-quarters pole. She was ahead by four lengths going down the stretch. In the end, the 9-5 favorite won by a length in her first race against the boys.

The win also validated Borel's decision to climb off Mine That Bird and stay on the filly as her regular rider.

Now Borel may get a shot at a personal Triple Crown, if Rachel Alexandra goes on to the Belmont Stakes in three weeks. The 1 1/2-mile race is the most grueling of the three.

"I'm not worried about nothing," he said. "It's going to take a racehorse to beat her."

Rachel Alexandra had already beaten up on her own gender, winning her five previous races by a combined 43 1/2 lengths.

Musket Man finished third, as he did in the Derby, followed by Flying Private and Big Drama.

Rachel Alexandra covered 1 3-16 miles in 1:55.08 and became the first horse to win at Pimlico from the No. 13 post on the far outside. She paid $5.60, $4.60 and $3.60. Mine That Bird returned $6.60 and $4.80, while Musket Man paid $5 to show.

AP

Jockey Calvin Borel, front, gestures after riding Rachel Alexandra to victory in the 134th running of the Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico Race Course on Saturday, May 16, 2009, in Baltimore.

"I'm thrilled to death with the race my little horse ran," said Chip Woolley Jr., who trains Mine That Bird. "You have to give that filly credit. She's a great one."

Rachel Alexandra earned $660,000 from the purse of $1.1 million.

Papa Clem was sixth, followed by Terrain, Luv Gov, General Quarters, Friesan Fire, Pioneerof the Nile, Tone It Down and Take the Points.

The last filly to win the Preakness was Nellie Morse in 1924. Rachel Alexandra became the second filly to go off as the wagering favorite and win. Whimsical at 8-5 odds was the first, in 1906.

Rachel Alexandra stumbled slightly leaving the gate, then stuck her head in front at the first turn and refused to give way.

Her first challenge was to get rid of Big Drama, a persistent presence from inside down the backside and into the final turn. Once she shook him loose and opened up the four-length lead at the top of the stretch, Mine That Bird made a run at her.

Borel sensed she was tiring, and took firm hold of the reins.

"I had to put the bit in her mouth because she was kind of struggling," he said. "It kind of took a lot out of her."

Still, she had enough left at the end and crossed the finish line to the cheers of 77,850 fans—the smallest crowd since 1983—at Pimlico.

"Awesome," said Bob Baffert, who trains Pioneerof the Nile. "Rachel Alexandra is amazing. She took the heat and kept on going."

The most impressive of Rachel Alexandra's performances was her stunning victory by 20 1/4 lengths in the Kentucky Oaks, the day before the Kentucky Derby.

This ending was far different from the last time a filly challenged the boys. Eight Belles finished a gallant second in last year's Kentucky Derby, then broke both front legs while galloping past the finish line and was destroyed on the track.

This time, it was all cheers. No tears.

"Rachel Alexandra was great," trainer Todd Pletcher said. "She took it right to them, led every step of the way. She deserves a lot of credit."

Rachel Alexandra, marked by two white spots on her head, wasn't even supposed to be in the Preakness. Her original owners, who named the filly after a 13-year-old granddaughter, didn't nominate her to the Triple Crown races, believing fillies should run only against their own gender.

After the Oaks, Rachel Alexandra was sold to Jess Jackson, founder of Kendall-Jackson winery, and Harold McCormick.

They ponied up $100,000 to buy her a spot in the race, and the gamble paid off.

"There was a lot of social criticism and doubt about whether she was capable," Jackson said. "I think I would've taken some heat if she hadn't performed well, so that takes some heat off my shoulders."

Borel had total faith in the filly, making the unprecedented decision to dump Mine That Bird after his stunning Derby victory at 50-1 odds.

"She's the best horse in the country right now, bar none," he said.

The last filly to win a Triple Crown race was Rags to Riches, who beat the Jackson-owned Curlin in the 2007 Belmont Stakes. Her victory was the first by a filly in that race in 102 years.

The start of the Preakness was delayed slightly when Big Drama reared up in the gate and dumped his rider. Rachel Alexandra stood at the opposite end, waiting patiently for the biggest test of her life.

Unlike the Derby, Mine That Bird had a tougher trip with Mike Smith, Borel's replacement, aboard. A light rain fell at the start of the race, but it didn't turn the dirt track into the kind of slop that he flew through to win at Churchill Downs.

"My hats off to her. She's a talented, talented mare," Smith said. "Anyone else would have caved."

Borel crossed the finish line, wagging his right index finger to signal their No. 1 status.

"Turning for home, I knew I was home free," he said.

Fans hoping for a rematch in the Belmont will have to wait a few days for a decision, although Mine That Bird will definitely run.

"I'll depend on her. The horse always tells you if they're ready," Jackson said. "Would we love to run? Yes. Could she win? We think so. We've already shown she can run with colts. It's a question now of her best interest."

A-Rod gives Yankees win with game-ending homer

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez belted a game-ending, two-run homer in the 11th inning to give New York a 6-4 win over the Minnesota Twins on Saturday.

Rodriguez hit a long drive off Craig Breslow (1-2) into the seats in left after Mark Teixeira led off with a walk. A jubilant Rodriguez threw his arms up as he rounded first, then discarded his batting helmet as he made it to the plate and was mobbed by teammates.

Rays 4, Indians 2

At St. Petersburg, Fla., B.J. Upton homered for the second consecutive day and Matt Garza pitched six effective innings for Tampa Bay.

Gabe Gross and Akinori Iwamura pulled off a double steal in the fifth, giving Tampa Bay at least one stolen base in 18 straight games, which is the longest stretch in the AL since the New York Yankees had a 19-game run in 1914. Both scored on Jason Bartlett's single to make it 3-0.

Blue Jays, 2 White Sox 1

At Toronto, Jose Bautista drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and the Blue Jays beat Chicago to give rookie right-hander Robert Ray his first major league win.

Ray (1-1) allowed one unearned run and three hits in a career-high eight innings. He walked one and struck out three, before Scott Downs closed it out for his fourth save.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Jason Bay slugged his 11th homer of the season in the first, Jason Varitek hit a two-run shot an inning later and Jeff Bailey also connected accounting for all of Boston's runs.

The Red Sox snapped a three-game skid.

Orioles 3, Royals 2

At Kansas City, Mo., Rich Hill came off the disabled list to pitch into the sixth inning, picking up his first victory in more than a year for the Orioles.

Hill, who had been out with a strained left elbow, limited the Royals to two runs on seven hits—six of them singles—and two runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Tigers 9, Athletics 1

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera drove in four runs, Ryan Raburn hit a three-run homer and the Tigers roughed up the Athletics for the second straight night.

Raburn, who entered the series hitting .095, has two homers and eight RBIs as the Tigers have outscored Oakland 23-2 in the first two games of the weekend set.

Rangers 5, Angels 3

At Arlington, Texas, John Lackey, activated from the disabled list earlier Saturday, was ejected after hitting Texas leadoff batter Ian Kinsler in the Rangers' win.

The Angels led 1-0 after Chone Figgins walked on four pitches to start the game and scored on a wild pitch by Vicente Padilla (3-2).

Mets 9, Giants 6

At San Francisco, Randy Johnson's pursuit of 300 wins will take a little longer.

Johnson dug himself an early hole against New York and ace Johan Santana, and the potent Mets beat the San Francisco Giants.

Carlos Beltran hit a pair of doubles and drove in three runs, and David Wright had a two-run double and three RBIs for New York. Fill-in cleanup hitter Gary Sheffield added three hits as the Mets won their 11th in 13 games and improved to 12-3 in May.

Cubs 5, Astros 4

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano drove in Bobby Scales with the winning run in the ninth inning after the Cubs had squandered a four-run lead.

Scales drew a leadoff walk against LaTroy Hawkins in the ninth inning before Aaron Miles' sacrifice moved him into scoring position. Soriano singled to right off Hawkins (1-1), and Hunter Pence's throw to the plate was high, allowing Scales to score.

Diamondbacks 12, Braves 0

At Atlanta, Max Scherzer pitched six scoreless innings for his first major league win and Chris Snyder hit a grand slam in the ninth, capping Arizona's rout.

Snyder matched his career high with five RBIs, including the grand slam off Buddy Carlyle in a six-run ninth. Rookie Gerardo Parra drove in three runs with three hits as Arizona ended a four-game losing streak.

Brewers 1, Cardinals 0

At St. Louis, Jeff Suppan threw seven scoreless innings in his favorite stadium and Corey Hart hit his first homer in 27 games to lift Milwaukee over the Cardinals.

Suppan, who parlayed an 2006 NLCS MVP for the Cardinals into a free-agent contract with the Brewers, outdueled Adam Wainwright in the first of 18 matchups between teams who entered the day tied for the NL Central lead.

Phillies 8, Nationals 5, first game
Phillies 7, Nationals 5, 5 innings, second game

At Washington, Brett Myers cranked out seven innings in the afternoon, and emergency callup Andrew Carpenter pitched into the fifth in his first major league start in a nightcap called in the sixth inning due to rain as the Phillies swept a day-night doubleheader.

Raul Ibanez hit three long home runs, and Philadelphia got a scoreless one-inning save in Game 1 from closer Brad Lidge, who had allowed at least one run in each of his six previous outings.

Marlins 6, Dodgers 3

At Miami, there was a mess on the field, and for a change it wasn't the Florida Marlins' fault.

Countless silvery pompon strands blew onto the diamond Saturday on pompom giveaway night, but the Marlins emerged from the litter with a 6-3 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers to break a five-game losing streak.

Pirates 7, Rockies 4

At Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth homered, Andy LaRoche and Delwyn Young each had two hits and two RBIs, and the Pirates beat Colorado.

Jack Wilson added two RBIs, Brandon Moss had two hits and scored twice for Pittsburgh, which has won three of five since snapping an eight-game losing streak.

Resilient Rockets pushing Lakers to the brink

AP

Houston Rockets forward Luis Scola, right, of Argentina,celebrates with teammate Brent Barry (17) in the final minute of Game 6 of their NBA Western conference playoff basketball series against the Los Angeles Lakers in Houston, Thursday, May 14, 2009.

HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Rockets have played their best this season when everything seems ready to fall apart.

They were virtually dismissed as a playoff threat in late February, when Tracy McGrady had season-ending knee surgery and Rafer Alston was traded to Orlando.

They fumbled away home-court advantage in the first round with a 95-84 loss to Dallas in the regular-season finale.

They lost backup center Dikembe Mutombo during the Portland series and leading scorer Yao Ming a week ago against the Lakers.

Yet the Rockets are still playing, pushing Los Angeles to Sunday's Game 7 in their Western Conference semifinal series with the resiliency that has become their defining trait.

"We're surprising a lot of people," said 6-foot-6 forward Chuck Hayes, who became Houston's starting center when Yao, who is a foot taller, broke his foot in Game 3. "I'm sure a lot of people had us written off. But if you did that, then you really haven't been watching basketball for the past month, because we're underdogs and we surprise people.

"People least expect it," Hayes said, "but somehow we get the job done."

The day after learning Yao was out for the rest of the postseason, the Rockets routed the Lakers 99-87 in Game 4. Los Angeles won Game 5 by 40 points, a loss that had many believing Houston's spunk had finally run out.

Then came Game 6 on Thursday night. The Rockets raced to another big lead, staved off a Lakers' rally and won by 15 points.

"We've been through so much, that's been the story of this season," forward Ron Artest said. "We're down, but we never fall and we're never counted out."

The Rockets found out on Feb. 18 that McGrady, the face of the franchise since he arrived in 2004, would miss the rest of the season. The two-time scoring champion was bothered by knee problems from the start of training camp and caused a stir when he announced that he was going to have risky microfracture surgery.

Coach Rick Adelman lashed out at McGrady for not properly informing the team and general manager Daryl Morey said he wanted to talk to McGrady about his apparent decision.

In the midst of that, Houston traded Alston to Orlando on Feb. 19, a deal that brought Kyle Lowry to the Rockets. The move turned Aaron Brooks into Houston's starting point guard, and many questioned if the second-year pro could handle the job.

The upheaval could have easily become a distraction, but the Rockets won 11 of 13 games between Feb. 11 and March 9, including victories over Portland, Cleveland and Denver.

A week later, reserve forward Carl Landry was wounded in the left calf in an early morning shooting in Houston. He missed eight games, and the Rockets won five of them while keeping in constant contact with their injured teammate.

No matter what's happened on the court or off, the Rockets have kept an even keel, a reflection of both Adelman and strong team chemistry.

"We win by two, or win by 10, the locker room is still joking," Artest said. "That helps us stay mentally stable, with this long season of grueling playoffs. It's hard enough playing the game. When the game's over, you've got to go back to being family, no matter what happens, win or lose."

Morey has built a roster of a good mix of veterans willing to mentor and share experience and young players who have accepted their roles without argument.

Artest has found a niche after signing with the Rockets last summer. He admitted his intensity didn't mesh with the team early, but he's settled down and tried to make Houston's more impressionable players see the possibilities he didn't early in his career.

"I took my legacy for granted, so I'm trying to continue to build a legacy," Artest said. "I told the guys, they're young, 'You've got a chance to build a legacy. And when your career is over, you can look back at everything you've accomplished and don't take anything for granted.'"

The reward could come Sunday, if the Rockets can stamp themselves not only the feel-good story of the playoffs, but a legitimate championship contender.

Few are expecting them to beat the Lakers at the Staples Center, where Los Angeles went 36-5 during the regular season.

But the way this season has gone and the team has come together, the Rockets wouldn't have it any other way.

"We've been through a lot this year. A lot," said forward Shane Battier, who missed 16 of the first 18 games with inflammation in his left foot. "It has galvanized the group to the point where, when you have something as small as no one believing in you, it's really a minor thing. It doesn't even faze us."

Former Oklahoma great Tisdale dies at 44

By MURRAY EVANS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Wherever Wayman Tisdale went, whatever he was doing, chances were he was smiling.

Tisdale was a three-time All-American at Oklahoma in the mid-1980s before playing a dozen years in the NBA and later becoming an accomplished jazz musician.

But those who knew Tisdale, who died Friday at a hospital in his hometown of Tulsa, Okla., recalled not only his professional gifts but a perpetually sunny outlook, even in the face of a two-year battle with cancer that took his life at 44.

"I don't know of any athlete at Oklahoma or any place else who was more loved by the fans who knew him than Wayman Tisdale," said Billy Tubbs, who coached Tisdale with the Sooners. "He was obviously, a great, great player, but Wayman as a person overshadowed that. He just lit up a room and was so positive."

Jeff Capel, the current Oklahoma coach, noted Tisdale's "incredible gift of making the people who came in contact with him feel incredibly special."

After three years at Oklahoma, Tisdale played in the NBA with the Indiana Pacers, Sacramento Kings and Phoenix Suns. The 6-foot-9 forward, with a soft left-handed touch on the court, averaged 15.3 points for his career. He was on the U.S. team that won the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics.

Gov. Brad Henry attended Oklahoma at the same time Tisdale did and later appointed him to the state's Tourism Commission.

"Oklahoma has lost one of its most beloved sons," Henry said. "Wayman Tisdale was a hero both on and off the basketball court. ... Even in the most challenging of times, he had a smile for people, and he had the rare ability to make everyone around him smile. He was one of the most inspirational people I have ever known."

State senators paused and prayed Friday morning after learning of his death.

Tisdale learned he had cancerous cyst below his right knee after breaking his leg in a fall at his home in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, 2007. He said then he was fortunate to have discovered the cancer early.

"Nothing can change me," Tisdale told The Associated Press last June. "You go through things. You don't change because things come in your life. You get better because things come in your life."

His leg was amputated last August and a prosthetic leg that he wore was crimson, one of Oklahoma's colors. He attended an Oklahoma City Thunder game April 7 and later that month was honored at the Greenwood Cultural Center in Tulsa. During the ceremony, he spoke about his cancer, saying "In my mind, I've beaten it."

He recently told Tulsa television station KTUL he had acute esophagitis, which prevented him from eating for about five weeks and led to significant weight loss. Among the causes of that condition are infections, medications, radiation therapy and systemic disease.

Last month, Tisdale was chosen for induction into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

He was the first freshman to be a first-team All-American since freshmen were allowed to play again in the 1971-72 season. He was also one of 10 three-time All-Americans. Patrick Ewing and Tisdale were the last to accomplish the feat, from 1983-85.

"On the court, he was an offensive machine that could score with the best of them," said Dallas Mavericks president Donnie Nelson, an assistant on Tisdale's Suns teams. "Off the court, he was grounded in faith and family."

Tisdale played on an Olympic team that sailed to the gold medal in Los Angeles. The squad was coached by Bob Knight and featured the likes of Ewing, Michael Jordan, Sam Perkins and Chris Mullin.

"Wayman was kind of a catalyst for people accepting roles," said C.M. Newton, the manager of the '84 team and now chairman of the NIT selection committee. "Michael was the leader of the team but Wayman was special in that way."

Perkins and Tisdale shared a love of music and became friends during the Olympics. Perkins later was the best man at Tisdale's wedding.

"That's a real friend who's got your back and would do just about anything for you," Perkins said. "That smile just gets you."

As a musician, Tisdale recorded eight albums. A bass guitarist who often wrote his own material, his most recent album, "Rebound," was inspired by his fight with cancer and included guest appearances by several artists, including saxophonist Dave Koz and country star and fellow Oklahoma native Toby Keith.

His "Way Up!" release debuted in July 2006 and spent four weeks as the No. 1 contemporary jazz album. His hits included "Ain't No Stopping Us Now," "Can't Hide Love" and "Don't Take Your Love Away."

"He was truly an inspiration to me, paving the way for an athlete like myself to pursue a passion for writing and performing music," said Bernie Williams, the former New York Yankees star turned jazz musician. "I had the honor and privilege of having Wayman perform on the title track of my new album, and was looking forward to collaborating with him again."

Tisdale averaged 25.6 points and 10.1 rebounds during his three seasons with the Sooners, earning Big Eight Conference player of the year each season.

He still holds Oklahoma's career records for points and rebounds. Tisdale also owns the school's single-game scoring mark - 61 points against Texas-San Antonio as a sophomore - and career marks for points per game, field goals and free throws made and attempts.

In 1997, Tisdale became the first Oklahoma player in any sport to have his jersey number retired. Two years ago, then-freshman Blake Griffin asked Tisdale for permission to wear No. 23, which Tisdale granted. Griffin went on to become the consensus national player of the year this past season as a sophomore.

"I spoke with him pretty frequently this past season and he helped me in ways he probably doesn't even know," Griffin said.

Numa Numa grabs beach volleyball lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Numa Numa won two games in Week 2 of the Miller Lite/ Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League played on the Pacific Islands Club sand court to grab the lead in the 12-team field.

Numa Numa remained unbeaten in four games after topping We're Here last Tuesday and MHS One Heart last Wednesday.

Typhoon Saito's strong hits proved to be too much for their foes, while Yumi Sharry and Mika Okubo were steady on defense to keep Numa Numa's perfect slate.

Week 1 leader Hits for Brains dropped to solo second place, but is the only other team to have an undefeated record (3-0) in the league.

Hits for Brains notched its third win against Grace Christian Academy. Hits for Brains drew points from Luther Taylor, who incidentally played against his GCA schoolmates.

Tied for third with identical 3-1 records are UMESSUPUOUT and Hoof Hearted.

UMESSUPUOUT handed the GCA Eagles back-to-back losses last Wednesday, while Hoof Hearted gained its third win after downing Angry Red Dragon last Thursday.

Angry Dragon holds a 2-2 slate and is in a tie for fifth to sixth place with the Spankers. Angry Dragons won over South Beach behind the strong plays of Dale Robert and Ed Cho before bowing to Hoof Hearted.

After a 0-2 start, Spankers made headway, prevailing in back-to-back games last Thursday. The Jazz Roskow and Tiger Lee-led Spankers first defeated the Plum Smugglers in the second game and completed a sweep with a victory in the third game against We're Here.

South Beach went 1-for-2 in Week 2 for a tie for seventh to eighth place with Plum Smugglers. After losing to Angry Red Dragon and Plum Smugglers last Tuesday, South Beach recovered win a win against MHS Bobais last Wednesday.

MHS Bobais is the lone team in the league that has yet to win a game. MHS Bobais dropped its first four matches. Its sister team, MHS One Heart, won one of three matches, while GCA and We're Here had identical 1-3 records.

Numa Numa's Typhoon Saito, right, battles a We're Here player on the net during their game in Week 2 of the Miller Lite/ Monster Energy Drink 4-Person Beach Volleyball League last Tuesday on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

Second baseman Jared Sablan had a two-run triple in the fifth inning and catcher Henry Rabauliman, shorstop Jeremy Rabauliman, and first baseman Christian Mizer nailed a one-run single apiece to give the Pats a 5-0 lead.

The pennant champions never looked back from there-on, adding three earned runs in the fourth and sixth inning. Mizer blasted a two-run single in the fourth and Carlos Rabauliman had a one-run single in the sixth.

Ol'Aces shortstop LaMarc Iguel, who incidentally played for the Patriots in the Majors, put his new team in the scoreboard, reaching home plate on a Caleb Arriola single in the third. Jake Santos gave Ol'Aces their second run, making it home on Frankie Camacho's single in the fourth inning before the Patriots' defense shut them out in the fifth and six inning.

At the top of the last inning, the Pats were ahead 8-2 and the Ol'Aces must score at least six runs to extend the game, but the latter fell four runs short.

Sablan, who relieved Brian Camacho on the mound in the fifth inning, struck out Ol'Aces leadoff batter Frankie Camacho. Shane Deleon Guerrero advanced on a Pats error, while Iguel nailed a double, bringing the latter to third base. Arriola then had a sacrifice fly, letting Iguel and Deleon Guerrero reach home plate.

With two outs and the Pats still ahead by four, 4-8, catcher Jacob Flores kept the Ol'Aces' hopes alive with his single. The Patriots finally ended Ol'Aces' bid for an upset with Sablan picking up a grounder from Carl Camacho and throwing to first base for the third out.

In the battle for third place, Kagman Lion Heart edged the Red Sox in extra inning, 5-4.

Rightfielder Davie Matagolai made the game-winning hit at the bottom of the eighth inning, connecting on a single and driving second baseman Roman Camacho home.

LIZAMA

From Page 28

fifth. Shortstop Jessie Brel anchored the spree with his two-run homer.

Red Sox 9, Survivors 2

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox gained a share of the lead following their 9-2 triumph over the Survivors.

The loss dropped the Survivors to a 6-7 slate, but they still made it to the playoffs, occupying the No. 8 spot, pending Sunday's games results.

Keene Deleon Guerrero allowed only one hit, had one hit by pitch, and walked one in the first five innings of the game. His steady performance on the mound neutralized Survivors, who made it to the scoreboard only at the bottom of the sixth inning.

On offense, the Red Sox had two earned runs and one unearned in the second inning, added one in the third, and made two more in the fifth before closing out with a four-run top of the sixth.

Braves 25, Twins 1

In the second game of the day, the Braves clobbered the Twins, 25-1.

Braves runners crossed the plate one after another, while the Twins defense or the lack of it watched haplessly.

Ian Rogolifoi blasted a three-run homer at the top of the first inning to spark the Braves' good start. The Braves scored seven runs in the first, made eight in the second, slowed down in the third with one, and then recovered with nine runs in the fourth.

The only time the Twins scored was in the second inning with Alex Litulimar reaching home plate on Braves'error.

TRACKSTERS

From Page 28

When competition resumed Saturday, majority of the student-athletes wore shoes, as they had a hard time coping with the scorching heat.

Despite the unpredictable and extreme weather conditions, the All Schools meet ended without a hitch and NMA awardded trophies to the Top 3 schools in five age groups in the boys and girls division.

Whispering Palms and Dandan Elementary School topped the girls' and boys' 8-and-under age group with the Terms collecting 66 points and the Tottots earning 60.

Saipan International School and Brilliant Star settled for second and third, respectively, in the girls' U8. In the boys' U8, Kagman Elementary School finished second, while SIS placed third.

Saipan Community School topped the girls' U10 with its 48 points, followed by Whispering Palms (42), and SIS (38). In the boys' U10, the Top 3 finishers were William S. Reyes Elementary School (86), Tanapag (52), and Whispering Palms (36).

SCS claimed its second championship trophy after ruling the girls' U12. SCS scored 62 points against WSR's 58 and Whispering Palms' 50.

The boys' U12 title went to WSR, which tallied 84 points, downing Dandan (56), and SIS (48).

Hopwood Junior High School and Marianas High School swept the 14-and-under and 18-and-under divisions, respectively.

Hopwood scored 180 points in the boys' U14 to prevail over SIS (76) and Whispering Palms (24). In the girls' U14, Hopwood collected 142 points to down ChaCha Junior High School (46), and Saipan Community School (24).

In the boys' U18, the MHS Dolphins earned 158 points, topping Kagman High School (120) and Northern Marianas Academy (10). The Lady Dolphins had 128 points in the girls' U18 to pull off an upset over Kagman (88). SIS finished third.

DFS

From Page 28

coming to the Commonwealth with their supporters, friends, and families," he said.

For his part, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White said they are extremely grateful for DFS Galleria's support.

BANMI will be organizing the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

White said Aldan-Pierce and DFS Galleria have always been faithful supporters of the sports community in the CNMI. He added that the company's $3,000 donation to the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament would go along way in defraying the cost of organizing the week-long basketball competition.

The tournament will run from June 20 to 28 and feature the men's and women's teams of Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia, Guam, and host CNMI.

Tahiti, Palau, and Fiji originally committed to send their men's and women's teams to the event, but pulled out at the last minute, citing financial reasons.

The 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament will be the biggest ever regional basketball competition that the CNMI will be hosting. The last time the CNMI hosted a regional basketball tournament was in 2006 during the Micronesian Games.

The addition of DFS Galleria brings to five the number of sponsors for the tournament. It joins gold sponsors ($5,000) Joeten, IT&E, and Tan Holding. McDonald's Saipan earlier donated $2,000 for the toruney.

BANMI said additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact BANMI president Elias Rangamar at 664-2502 or White at 234-6547.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
Toronto	25	14	.641	-
Boston	22	15	.595	2
New York	19	17	.528	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	18	20	.474	6 1/2
Baltimore	16	21	.432	8
Central Division				
Detroit Tigers	19	16	.543	-
Kansas City	19	18	.514	1
Minnesota	18	19	.486	2
Chicago	15	20	.429	4
Cleveland	14	24	.368	6 1/2
West Division				
Texas 22	14	.611		-
Los Angeles	18	17	.514	3 1/2
Seattle	17	20	.459	5 1/2
Oakland	13	20	.394	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
New	21	15	.583	-
Philadelphia	19	16	.543	1 1/2
Atlanta	18	18	.500	3
Florida	18	19	.486	3 1/2
Washington	11	24	.314	9 1/2
Central Division				
Milwaukee	22	14	.611	-
Chicago	21	14	.600	1/2
St. Louis	21	15	.583	1
Cincinnati	20	16	.556	2
Houston	16	19	.457	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	15	21	.417	7
West Division				
Los Angeles	25	13	.658	-
San Francisco	18	18	.500	6
San Diego	15	22	.405	9 1/2
Colorado	14	21	.400	9 1/2
Arizona	14	23	.378	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 4, Cleveland 2
Toronto 2, Chi White Sox 1
Boston 5, Seattle 3
Baltimore 3, Kansas City 2
Detroit 9, Oakland 1
Texas 5, LA Angels 3
NY Mets 6, San Francisco 3
Chi Cubs 5, Houston 4
Arizona 12, Atlanta 0
Milwaukee 1, St. Louis 0
Florida 6, LA Dodgers 3
Pittsburgh 7, Colorado 4

VALERO TEXAS OPEN

THIRD ROUND

Zach Johnson	68	67	60	195
Paul Goydos	63	65	47	175
Justin Leonard	63	68	44	175
Marc Leishman	64	69	62	195
Scott Sterling	68	63	53	184
Fredrik Jacobson	66	66	53	185
Kent Jones	67	65	53	185
Dustin Johnson	74	65	62	201
Todd Fischer	70	67	64	201
Bill Haas	67	67	67	201
Greg Owen	65	68	61	194
Stephen Ames	66	67	57	190
Brian Davis	65	67	58	190
Shaun Micheel	67	72	63	202
Jonathan Kaye	71	68	63	202
Charley Hoffman	70	69	63	202
Matt Weibring	67	70	65	202
Frank Lickliter II	69	68	65	202
J.J. Henry	66	70	66	202
John Mallinger	67	64	56	187
Charlie Wi	68	71	64	203
Martin Piller	69	70	64	203
Garrett Willis	68	70	65	203
James Nitties	68	69	66	203
Bob Estes	67	70	66	203
James Driscoll	67	69	67	203
Tim Clark	67	69	67	203
Kevin Stadler	67	68	68	203
Lee Janzen	66	68	69	203
Briny Baird	68	66	65	199
Ted Purdy	64	67	52	183
Mark Brooks	71	68	65	204
Corey Pavin	66	72	66	204
Scott Verplank	67	70	67	204
Scott McCarron	70	67	67	204
Robert Gates	73	64	67	204
Wil Collins	67	69	68	204
Jimmy Walker	70	66	68	204
Patrick Sheehan	68	68	68	204
Harrison Frazar	67	69	68	204
Mathias Gronberg	66	65	50	181
Nathan Green	70	69	66	205
Bill Lunde	73	65	67	205
Chris DiMarco	72	66	67	205
Marco Dawson	68	68	69	205
Bart Bryant	70	66	69	205
Kris Blanks	70	65	70	205
Aron Price	69	66	70	205
Brandt Jobe	70	65	70	205
Jason Gore	70	69	67	206
Mark Wilson	67	72	67	206
Paul Stankowski	70	69	67	206
Troy Matteson	72	66	68	206
Gary Woodland	67	70	69	206
Scott Gutschewski	71	66	69	206
Greg Chalmers	69	67	70	206
Charles Warren	70	66	70	206
David Peoples	72	67	68	207
Richard S. Johnson	71	68	68	207
Rocco Mediate	69	70	68	207
Tim Herron	68	71	68	207
Eric Axley	72	67	68	207
Vaughn Taylor	70	68	69	207
Jay Williamson	69	68	70	207
Carlos Franco	71	66	70	207
David Duval	66	69	72	207
Jeff Maggert	64	70	73	207
Matt Bettencourt	68	71	69	208
Robin Freeman	70	69	69	208
Anthony Kim	69	69	70	208
Matt Jones	67	69	72	208
J.P. Hayes	71	62	64	197
Chad Campbell	68	69	72	209
Tag Ridings	69	66	74	209
Billy Andrade	72	67	71	210
Matt Loving	72	67	72	211

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Standings

Numa Numa	4	0
Hits For Brains	3	0
UMESSUPUOUT	3	1
Hoof Hearted	3	1
Spankers	2	2
Angry Red Dragon	2	2
South Beach	2	3
Plum Smugglers	2	3
MHS One Heart	1	2
GCA	1	3
We're Here	1	3
MHS Bobais	0	4

The Week in Sports

Bad, good news for Oceania caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The biggest story of the week came out Friday with Saipan hosting next month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament sans three off-island teams.

As early as Wednesday, various newspapers in Oceania and Pacific had reported Fiji, Palau, and Tahiti had already pulled out of the tournament due to financial difficulties. Last Thursday, FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith confirmed reports about the withdrawals, but assured remaining teams and other concerned groups the quadrennial event will go ahead as scheduled. Saipan will host the Oceania caging from June 20 to 28.

"FIBA Oceania announces with great reluctance and sadness the withdrawal of teams from Tahiti, Fiji, and Palau from the forthcoming FIBA Oceania Tournament to be played on Saipan," read the official statement FIBA Oceania sent to Saipan Tribune.

"The FIBA Oceania tournament on Saipan will go ahead with 10 teams and each division (men's and women's) playing a full round of games and then a further top of the table elimination series leading to the medal rounds," Smith said.

Joining CNMI in the tournament are Guam, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand.

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands is confident of having a successful tournament despite the withdrawals.

"We are still looking forward to a great tournament. We will have the chance to play our traditional rival Guam, as well as perennial powerhouse New Caledonia. With the new tournament format, we will get the opportunity to measure ourselves against both Australia and New Zealand. CNMI basketball fans will still get the chance to watch the Pacific's best in action," BANMI secretary general Michael White said in an email to Saipan Tribune.

With or without Palau, Fiji, and Tahiti, the CNMI Men's and Women's Nationals are busy with their preparations for the Oceania tournament.

Women's Nationals coach William "Bill" Sewell Jr. is having his wards have scrimmages against male players to get the CNMI cagebelles ready for the tough competition ahead.

The Men's Nationals of coach Rufino Aguon are doing the same rigorous training, while awaiting for the return of former Mr. Carmel School mainstay Dan Barcinas, who will boost the team's offensive threat. Barcinas will plane in from Oregon early next month.

Meanwhile, Barcinas' MCS schoolmate, Chang Kyun Kim, is still on Saipan and led winners in the 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort

The 19-year-old MCS alumnus shot a 2-under par 70 to beat veteran Jess Wabol and fellow Korean golfer Jung Won Lee and rule the championship flight of the fundraiser.

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, protests over uniform violations in the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball has turned into an epidemic, as the playoff game between Ol'Aces against Kagman Lion Hearts was marred by another incident.

This time, Kagman was on the losing end, as Ol'Aces was awarded the win by forfeiture and advanced to the finals against the Patriots. The Patriots topped the Red Sox in the other semis game, 6-2, and eventually won the title via an 8-4 win over the Ol'Aces Saturday.

The Lion Hearts-Ol'Aces match was halted after the top of the first inning, as the latter protested the wrong uniform of Kagman pitcher Aldofo Guillermo Roppul. Roppul had the word "King" printed on his shirt, instead of "Hearts."

In the Senior League playoff game, three weeks ago, Kagman Lion King protested the missing stripes on the pants of Jets pitcher Toby Fleming, saying it is a violation on ground rules on uniforms. The Jets were ahead, 11-0, in the third inning when Lion King filed a protest and won the game via forfeiture.

No protest was needed for Raphael Zapanta to win the May edition of the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, as he was way ahead of runner-up Marion McKenzie. Zapanta had a four-game total of 756 pinfalls against McKenzie's 595 to notch his fifth straight monthly title.

Veterans Simon Manacop and Gloria Omechalang had their firsts with the former knocking 916 pinfalls to win the Budweiser King of the Lanes' title. Omechalang tallied 702 pinfalls to claim the Queen of the Lanes tiara.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ol'Aces players huddle on the mound during their title game against the Patriots in the Junior League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jayvan Tarkong, seen going for a layup during the Budweiser caging, is one of the CNMI players hoping to land a spot on the CNMI National Men's Team that will be competing in next month's FIBA Oceania Tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CNMI Women's Nationals coach William "Bill" Sewell gives instructions to his players during a break in their training session at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Patriots' Brian Camacho delivers a pitch during their title game against Ol'Aces in the Junior League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

MARK RABAGO
Junior golfer and Mt. Carmel School graduate Chang Kyun Kim poses with his trophy and cash prize after topping the championship flight of the 7th Annual Mount Carmel School Golf Tournament.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Dan Barcinas, seen here in a file photo from his playing days with the Mt. Carmel Knights, will suit up for the CNMI Men's Nationals for next month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Raphael Zapanta, second from left, won his fifth straight Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
May Budweiser King of the Lanes Simon Manacop, left, poses with runner-up Richard Leong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gloria Omechalang, middle, won the May Budweiser Queen of the Lanes.

Bad, good news for Oceania caging

The biggest story of the week came out Friday with Saipan hosting next month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Tournament sans three off-island teams.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Filly Rachel Alexandra wins Preakness

Jockey Calvin Borel all but guaranteed victory in the Preakness Stakes and, boy, did she deliver, becoming the first filly in 85 years to win the second leg of the Triple Crown.

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Patriots top Junior League

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Patriots flash the No. 1 sign after beating Ol'Aces in the finals of the Juniors division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Patriots completed their domination of the Junior League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Division after an 8-4 win over Ol'Aces in the championship last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Patriots, who ruled the Major League for three straight years, joined the Junior League only this season and now have pennant and championship trophies added to their already bulging collection.

The Thelma Mizer-managed team finished the regular season with a 12-2 record, absorbing those two losses at the hands of Ol'Aces.

In the finals, the Manny Sablan-coached Patriots made sure there will be no third time.

A five-run bottom of the second gave the Patriots the needed cushion to take control of the game.

See PATRIOTS on Page 26

Lizama's no-hitter lifts Ol'Aces past A's

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pitcher Jeremy Lizama gave Athletics' batters a nightmare and his no-hitter powered Ol'Aces to an 19-0 win in the Major League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Lizama pitched in no relief in five innings, striking out 13 and walking two. Lizama retired the A's first three batters in the first inning. The A's had the same dilemma in the third and fourth innings, dropping the team's chances for a playoff spot. The A's finished the regular season with a 5-8 record for the No. 9 spot. Only the top eight squad will advance to the playoffs.

Ol'Aces ended their regular season campaign with an 11-2 mark and are in a three-way tie for first place with the Hustlers and Red Sox.

After taking a 10-0 lead in four innings, Ol'Aces saved the best for last, posting a nine-run top of the

See LIZAMA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Red Sox runner is safe on home plate, as the Survivors catcher drops the ball during their game in the Majors division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Tracksters endure heat and rain

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics

Around 1,000 student-athletes endured the rain and heat at the Oleai Sports Complex, completing the two days of competitions in the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships.

Late Friday afternoon, downpour greeted participants in the 3,000m, 400m, and 800m runs, high hump, and discus throw, but the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics and elementary, high school, and junior high schools students proceeded with the events with caution.

With the lanes at the track and field facility soaked in water, runners opted to race barefoot, while participants in throwing and jumping events sought refuge in their respective tents.

See TRACKSTERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 800m run event in the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships are rain-soaked as they await the start of the race at the Oleai Sports Complex track last Friday.

DFS donates 3K to FIBA tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The withdrawal of three teams from next month's 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of sponsors as Duty Free Shoppers Galleria Saipan became the latest supporter of the quadrennial event.

In a simple check turnover ceremony Friday at the DFS Galleria office in Garapan, company president Marian Aldan-Pierce reaffirmed the luxury store's commitment to events that promote health and fitness in the CNMI.

Aldan-Pierce, who was joined in the ceremony by DFS Galleria assistant manager Ben Babauta, added that the Oceania tourney will also help promote the CNMI as a tourist destination even as the Marianas Visitors Authority is remaking the brand as a sports tourism hub.

"This will help put us in the map what with basketball players from Australia, New Zealand, and New Caledonia

See DFS on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

DFS Galleria Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce hands over her company's $3,000 donation for the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament to Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White. Also in photo are BANMI's Gabrial White and DFS Galleria assistant manager Ben Babauta.